

- Is a free service offered by America's Boating Club and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Is part of being a responsible boat operator
- Gives you peace of mind that your recreational boat has all required safety equipment

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



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VSCs are so important that one of America's Boating Channel's first videos was about the benefits of annual checks. Scan the QR code to view it and learn more.



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What's Included in a Vessel Safety Check?

VSCs follow a standard checklist.

Your vessel safety examiner is a friendly, knowledgeable person who will check for all items on this list that apply to your boat:

1. Display of numbers
2. Registration/documentation
3. Personal flotation devices
4. Visual distress signals
5. Fire extinguishers
6. Ventilation
7. Backfire flame control
8. Sound-producing devices
9. Navigation lights
10. Pollution placard
11. MARPOL trash placard
12. Marine sanitation devices
13. Navigation rules
14. State and/or local requirements
15. Overall vessel condition:
 - Engine cutoff switch (ECOS)

Your examiner may "recommend and discussion items" that contribute to boating safety but are not required as part of your VSC.

Feel free to ask your examiner any questions.

Use the QR code below to request a VSC.



Upon conclusion of your VSC:

- **If your boat passes**, your examiner will mount a VSC decal on your boat that will be visible to other boaters and maritime law enforcement personnel.
- **If your boat does not pass**, your examiner will let you know what it needs to pass.



Photo credits:
AmericasBoatingChannel.com

Check Before We Check

Want to check your boat before your VSC?

Use the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Virtual Vessel Examiner. Then contact us to do your VSC and award you with your boat's VSC decal.

Use this QR code to request a VSC.



Safety Tips

Bring plenty to eat and drink – avoid dehydration. Don't consume alcoholic beverages while boating.

Operate the boat in a safe and responsible manner.

Always wear a life jacket.

Take a boating safety course. Make sure your crew knows what to do in an emergency.

Sun, wind, and temperature can be more of a factor than many boaters think. Take precautions to avoid boat operator fatigue and protect everyone on board.

Annually, have a courtesy vessel safety check.

File a float plan with someone who will take action if your return is overdue.

Evaluate conditions – weather, your vessel, and the readiness of everyone on board – as part of your go/no-go decision.

Local knowledge increases safety. Plan your trip – be aware of tides, currents, etc.

Your lookout is key to situational awareness. When boating alone, that lookout is you.