



General Tips for Boat Owners

- Summer months are precious. Only take your boat in for repair or maintenance when it is really essential; save up little items for the fall/winter
- Be sure to winterize if storing your boat for more than 60 days
- When fueling at a gas dock, do not trust the chain on your gas cap, they will all break at some point (and possibly fall in the water)
- If you must drop off or pick up passengers, reduce your hassle by doing it all at once; don't make several trips at the expense of yourself or the group for one individual; communicate the correct expectations to your group so they will plan ahead, and avoid this altogether
- Speak up to cover your gas expenses. It may surprise you to know that fuel will be your number one expense; it's not out of line to ask people to chip in, after all you wouldn't buy their lift ticket if you went snowboarding would you? \$12/set usually covers fuel when a boat is fully weighted, \$10 if not weighted; if someone is learning or falling a lot, \$15 per set will usually cover their fuel (keep in mind, as a boat owner, this will only cover your fuel on the boat, you are usually expected to pay for towing to the lake as well as any launch fees)
- On longer trips, you can use saran wrap to cover your tower, racks, speakers, and other items you want to protect from bugs or debris; once bugs are on there, a steam cleaner works well to remove bugs with little to zero scrubbing (or try Speakersox covers)
- Vinegar (5 parts water / 1 part vinegar) works well for cleaning the boat gelcoat, windshield, and most "shiny parts"
- 303 and/or magic erasers work well for cleaning marks off of vinyl (softscrub can be used once a year to get tougher spots)
- It's a good idea to towel dry (and let air dry if possible) your boat interior and exterior after each use. Think, "where will the mold or mildew happen" when cleaning.
- When riding in colder/winter climates, or when covering the boat immediately after each use, communicate to others to try to keep the boat interior as dry as possible to prevent mold and mildew. Avoid splashing into the boat and have each rider dry off on the swim platform. When it's cold, a dry group is a happy group.
- Unless required by law, don't keep your original documents inside of the boat; make copies for the boat, and keep the originals in a safe place
- Red right returning, always keep red buoys or lights to your right when returning up stream; keep green buoys or lights to your left when returning
- Never allow suntan oil or baby oil near your boat. It will stain and "cook" the vinyl and it is nearly impossible to clean off
- Communicate to your boat passengers (especially those that have never boated with you) the rules and expectations for their day on your boat; this should include the schedule/time you expect to be on the water, general courtesy at the launch and on the water, general "no no's" and rules, chipping in for cleanup and/or fuel, and safety instructions
- To share the boating experience and share the driving, it's a good idea to train and rotate drivers throughout the day
- It's rarely thought of but it's a good idea to know whom to call in case of emergency for everyone that comes on your boat. (ICE)

For additional information on our boating courses, please contact:

Mile High Wakeboarding
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Here are a few example rules for your boat that are easy to remember. These are just guidelines.

Example Boat Rules: (Top 10)

- Don't hit anything with the boat and don't let anything hit the boat (including boards)
- 'Regulars' should learn to drive and take turns driving the boat
- No power turns (explain to your drivers what this is)
- Limit multiple pick up and drop offs at the dock throughout the day
- Everyone pitches in for gas and helps to clean/dry up after boating (\$15 set for "regulars"; more if they are learning and/or falling a lot) set this expectation upfront
- No shoes in the boat, no stepping on the seats, vinyl, or trailer with shoes
- No baby oil, suntan oil, or spray-on lotions, anywhere near the boat
- Girls – watch your toe and finger nail polish – it rubs off on seats and is semi permanent
- Use hand signals, and wave that you are OK after every fall
- If you learn a trick, you get pushed in (more tradition than a rule)

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