

# Do I need a separate insurance policy for my boat?

## Is my boat covered under my homeowners policy or do I need a separate policy?

Most homeowners policies provide liability insurance for smaller motorboats with outboard motors of 25 horsepower or less and for sailboats under 26-feet long. There typically is \$1,500 coverage for damage to the boat for specified perils. However, theft and windstorm are limited and sinking is not covered at all.

## What type of policy is best?

Boat owners are well served by a policy specifically designed to insure watercraft, offering all-risk coverage for the boat's full value. A boat owners policy provides the necessary liability, hull coverage and motor coverage. The policies follow the same format as personal auto policies; however, they differ from company to company. Boat owners policies do because they are written on nonstandardized policies.

## What should I look for in a boat owners policy?

- Liability coverage, including the boat's ability to go and still be insured by the insurance company
- provisions for covering sails, spars and other property on the boat;
- permissive users of the boat;

- exclusions for how it is used (e.g., commercial, parasailing, racing)
- all-risk vs. named perils; and
- be certain the personal liability coverage will include an underwriting category for

## Do you have other questions?

Consult your insurance agent to find out what type of policy is the best match for your needs. Remember, you understand your policy.

Generally, if your boat is insured with us, it is properly registered. It is your responsibility to follow all laws of the state and federal laws regarding boating and boats, which are available from the U.S. Coast Guard and your local law-enforcement agencies.

## Is it illegal to drink alcohol while boating?

It is against federal law for a recreational boat operator to have a blood alcohol content higher than .08 percent. State laws apply for boaters in waters within state geographical boundaries.

## What is the law in New Jersey?

Under New Jersey law, operators of boats which are motor powered and/or 12 feet or more in length (regardless of their power source), who have a blood alcohol

concentration of .08 percent or higher are considered to be intoxicated. Under the law, boaters with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent or higher face a host of penalties.

Boaters with a blood alcohol level between .08 percent and .10 percent face the loss of their right to operate a boat on New Jersey waters for one year, the privilege of operating a motor vehicle in the state for three months and face a \$250-\$400 fine. Those with a blood alcohol level of .10 percent or higher, face the loss of right to operate a boat on New Jersey waters for one year and the privilege of operating a motor vehicle in New Jersey for seven to 12 months and a fine of \$300-\$500.

Penalties for second offenders include loss of boating and motor vehicle driving privileges in the state for two years, the performance of community service for a period of 30 days, imprisonment for 48 hours to 90 days and a fine of \$500-\$1,000.

Third or subsequent offenders can receive imprisonment for 180 days, the loss of boating and motor vehicle driving privileges in New Jersey for 10 years and a fine of \$1,000. The violation also will show up on your driving record which could have a negative affect on your personal auto policy.



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