

Boats



REGISTRATION (LICENSING)

Where do I register my boats?

Go to any Deputy Registrar (anyplace you license your car) or the DNR License Bureau at 500 Lafayette Road in St. Paul, and you will receive your boat licenses and decals on the spot. If you apply through the mail, it may take several weeks before you receive your decals and cards.

What needs to be registered?

All motorized watercraft of any length (including electric) and all non-motorized craft over 9 feet in length. There are other exceptions, but they usually do not affect resorts. Persons bringing boats in from out-of-state must either register their boat or canoe in their state or in Minnesota. An out-of-state registration is valid for 90 days. If another state does not require canoes to be registered, as an example, the owner must register it in that state (most states will accept voluntary registration) or register it in Minnesota.

How much is it going to cost?

License Fee For 3 Calendar Years (includes various fees and surcharges)	
Rental Boats	19 feet or less & used for rent.....\$22.50*
	Over 19 feet to less than 26 feet.....\$58.50
	Over 19 feet with operator\$88.50
	Duplicate Title\$11.00
	Transfer Title\$17.00
*except personal watercraft See the <i>Minnesota Boating Guide</i> for complete information.	

How do I display my registration numbers and decals?

The license number appearing on the registration card must be displayed in 3-inch high numbers and letters on both sides of the forward half of the boat along with the current validation decals. Non-motorized canoes, sailboats, sailboards and paddle boats need only display the current decals which have the license number on them. If they have a motor, the 3-inch numbers or let-

ters are required. Remember **ONLY THE CURRENT DECALS SHOULD BE VISIBLE. REMOVE OR COVER ALL EXPIRED DECALS.**

Any special rules for resorts?

Yes! Resorts and other persons who rent boats (with or without lodging) may keep the license card at the resort if the name of their business is painted or placed near the stern of the boat in 3-inch high letters on both sides. See illustration above.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs or life preservers)

Each person on board any watercraft must have a Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III wearable PFD readily accessible or worn. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks), there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved Type IV throwable device, such as a buoyant cushion or ring buoy immediately available. The law requires all children under age 10 to wear a life jacket on board any watercraft while underway.

Lights

Any watercraft used between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with the proper lights.

Non-motorized craft need only display a white light (flashlight) in time to avoid a collision.

Motorboats (electric included) must display a red-green bow light and a white 360° stern light when underway, and a 360° white light when anchored.

Other Equipment

Equipment requirements vary with the size of the craft, equipment on board and propulsion - see the latest *Minnesota Boating Guide* for details.

Equipment Responsibility

The rental agent (resort) is required by law to provide

the life preservers and other safety equipment required by law. (The rental agent may charge a fee for this, except for personal watercraft). The resort operator probably will keep all life preservers or PFDs in the cabin or boathouse. It is highly recommended that each registrant initial or sign a form when they sign in that indicates they were informed about the whereabouts of PFDs, lights, etc. and that they are required to have them on board. Renters may use their own PFDs, but should be made aware of those provided by the resort anyway. Those guests who bring their own boats with them are generally responsible for their own craft.

Must my rental boats be inspected?

Yes! All rental watercraft must be inspected periodically by the county sheriff. Deputies will check your boats to see that they comply with the appropriate Minnesota safety standards. They will also inspect oars, paddles and PFDs to be sure they are in serviceable condition. When it passes inspection, an inspection sticker, valid for one year, will be placed on the boat, usually near the capacity plate. If you have rental boats that have not been inspected, simply call the sheriff's department, and they will send out a deputy to do the inspection.

AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR MOTORBOATS

Motorboats - Except Personal Watercraft	
Less than 12 years old	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25 hp or less - no restriction, more than 25 thru 75 hp - must have someone at least 21 on board in reach of controls, over 75 hp - cannot operate, even with adult on board
12-17 years old	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25 hp or less - no restriction, over 25 hp - must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ a watercraft operator's permit, or ★ someone at least 21 on board in reach of controls

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT RENTALS



What is a personal watercraft?

Sometimes known as *Jet Skis*, *Wave Runners*, *Sea Doos* etc., a personal watercraft is defined by law as a motorboat that 1) is powered by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or by an outboard or propeller-driven motor; and 2) is designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, or kneeling on the craft, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside a motorboat.

There are specific restrictions on personal watercraft regarding speed near shore, anchored boats & docks, wake jumping and hours of operation - see the *Minnesota Boating Guide*.

A person that offers personal watercraft for rent must provide: 1) a summary of the laws and rules regarding personal watercraft operation, 2) instruction to the renter on laws, rules and the safe operation of the craft and 3) all required safety equipment, including a USCG approved wearable life preserver (Type I, II, III or V) of the correct size for each rider as well as any other required equipment (fire extinguisher etc.) at no additional charge. In addition a DNR personal watercraft rules decal must be on the craft where it is visible to the operator.

Rental operations are required to keep track of the dates and names of all persons who rent PWC, (and for those 13-17 years of age - the watercraft operator's permit number) on a log sheet. The log sheet must be available for inspection by DNR conservation officers or county sheriffs for a period of at least six months.

It is unlawful for the owner of the personal watercraft to permit its operation in violation of the age or permit restrictions.

AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PWC

Personal Watercraft - (PWC, Jet Skis etc.) - regardless of horsepower	
Less than 13 years old	Cannot operate, even with adult on board.
13 years old	Must either have: ★ someone at least 21 on board, or ★ a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual contact by someone at least 21
14-17 years old	Must either have: ★ a watercraft operator's permit, or ★ have someone at least 21 on board

Watercraft operator permit materials are available from the MN DNR at the address at the end of this brochure.

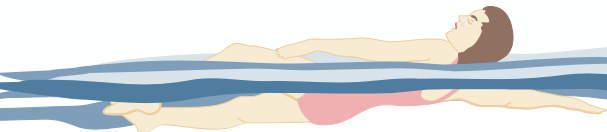
POOLS, DOCKS, STRUCTURES, AND BUOYS

Swim Areas

Public swimming areas (including resorts) must be marked off using the standard Uniform State Waterway System Buoy for "Boats - Keep Out." The buoy is white with orange bands at the top and bottom and an orange diamond with a cross inside. The words "SWIM AREA" appear in black letters. Swim buoys must be a minimum of 9" in diameter, and extend no less than 36" above the water. Cost for manufactured buoys is approximately \$100.00 apiece plus anchor and cable. A permit is required from the county sheriff.

Swimming Pools

Swimming pools at resorts or campgrounds must meet the standards established by the Minnesota Department of Health.



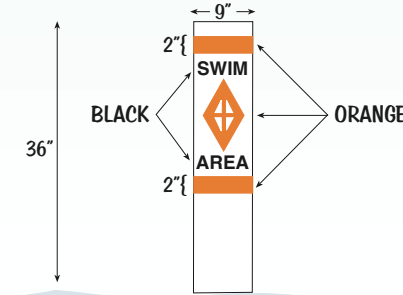
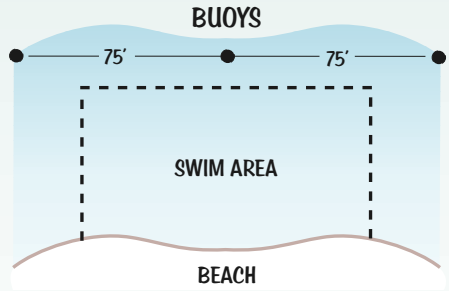
Docks

Docks that extend from shore may not interfere with navigation and generally require no permit, unless they exceed 8 feet in width. Small dock platforms up to 120 square feet (measured separately from the walkway) or 170 square feet if measured including the adjacent walkway have been temporarily authorized by a general statewide permit. Individual permits are needed for larger platforms. For more information, see the DNR publication "Docks and Access in Public Waters" by checking the DNR website or contacting the DNR Information Center (Note: There may be local ordinances on docks.)

Floating Structures

Floating structures (swim rafts, slalom courses, mooring buoys etc.) not extending from shore require a permit from the county sheriff, if left out after sunset.


NOTE: This brochure is not intended as a complete summary of boating and/or water safety laws. Consult the *Minnesota Boating Guide, Watercraft Statutes and Rules* and the Minnesota Department of Health for further information. Your local DNR conservation officer or county sheriff can also assist you.



FREE PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

For more information on boat and water safety, the DNR has these publications available at no charge. Call 651-259-5400 or toll free 1-888-646-6367 or e-mail: boatandwater@dnr.state.mn.us.

- Danger, Thin Ice - ice safety brochure
- Recommended Ice Thickness Safety Card
- Minnesota Boating Guide (laws & rules)
- Water Safety Coloring Book (ages 3-7)
- Buoy Identification Sticker
- Alcohol Estimation Card (shows relationship between number of drinks and alcohol level for men and women)
- Personal Watercraft Laws
- Personal Watercraft Laws Decal
- Hypothermia, the Cold Facts - cold water safety
- Watercraft Operator Permit Packet - ages 12 - 17
- H₂O Toons (boating safety comic book for ages 7-12)
- Stop That Prop (ski boat operator warning sticker)




Boat & Water Safety Section
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4046

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling:
(651) 296-6157, in MN toll free (888) 646-6367,
TTY (651) 296-5484, toll free TTY (800) 657-3929
e-mail: boatandwater@dnr.state.mn.us

Find us on the Internet at:
www.mndnr.gov/boating or www.mndnr.gov/waters

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