

Paddle Safe



When Paddling You MUST:

Keep safe, stay right

- Where possible paddle outside the channel.
- Don't paddle in the centre of the channel or river.
- Keep clear of large vessels.



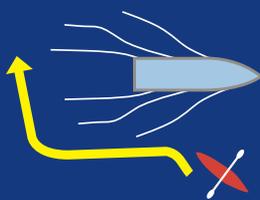
Keep a proper lookout

- Use your eyes and ears to keep a good lookout.
- Take care when entering or crossing channels.



Keep clear of larger vessels

- Cross behind, not in front.
- Remember powerboat wash can capsize small craft.



Wear a lifejacket

- Wear an approved lifejacket at all times.

**ALL REGULATIONS FOR AVOIDING COLLISIONS APPLY.
SHOW REQUIRED LIGHTS AT NIGHT.**

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**Australia New Zealand
Safe Boating Education Group**

www.anzsbeg.com.au



An understanding of the safe boating rules that apply to all vessels, as well as the specific rules for canoes and kayaks, will help paddlers to enjoy their sport in safety.

If you're taking up paddling, you're probably doing it for fitness, fun, relaxation or just getting into places where other boats can't go. But do you know how to paddle safely?

Be seen, be safe

- Dress brightly.
- Paddle in tight formation.
- Keep a proper lookout.
- Paddle during daylight hours or adhere to the night lighting requirements for canoes and kayaks.
- Stay close to the shore line.
- Keep to the starboard (right-hand) side of the channel.

Navigation lights

Between sunset and sunrise a torch is a minimum requirement, but it is strongly recommended that the craft has an all-round white light visible in every direction.

Have the right equipment

- Wear an approved lifejacket at all times.
- Check your equipment is in working order.
- Carry a waterproof, handheld VHF marine radio and a mobile phone in a waterproof pouch.
- On open waters, consider taking an EPIRB or personal locator beacon and know how to use them.
- Carry sufficient drinking water and sun protection.
- Dress appropriately for the conditions including hat, sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Use a paddle or leg leash in windy conditions.

Know the boating rules

- Obey local lifejacket laws.
- Keep to the right.
- Give way to any craft under sail.
- Keep clear of larger vessels.
- Keep a proper lookout.
- Understand navigation markers.
- Cross safely.
- Avoid shipping lanes and busy channels.

Understand the conditions

- Check the latest weather and wave report, and plan your trip accordingly.
- Know what wind strength you can handle.
- Take account of swell and tides.
- Take extra care when crossing a bar.
- Check river conditions and avoid floods.
- Find out as much information as possible about the area you are going to paddle.

Plan your trip

- Always tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.
- Ensure you and your boat are suited to the conditions.
- Consider taking a handheld VHF marine radio and a mobile phone in a waterproof pouch.
- On open waters, consider taking an EPIRB or personal locator beacon.
- Carry sufficient drinking water and sun protection.
- Dress appropriately for the conditions.
- It is best to paddle in company.

To learn more about the boating rules and lifejacket requirements, contact your local maritime authority, join a club, ask a retailer or go online.

