

Checklist

Yachtsmen have always regarded self-sufficiency as a basic principle of being at sea and to this end you need to be prepared for all eventualities. The level of equipment you carry will be dictated to some extent by your cruising grounds, how far off shore you are going and also by your budget. It is essential that you can get yourself out of a life threatening situation with the gear you have on board. These are some of the suggested items.

First aid kit & Manual see Ron's list

Basic tool kit. A comprehensive set of screwdrivers, a socket set and a set of metric and imperial spanners, Allen keys, large and small hammers, monkey wrench, pliers, large and small hacksaws, tape measure, Stanley knife. WD40

Engine spares. Alternator drive belt, several fuel filters and oil filters, oil, water pump impeller and any tools you need to fit it. Biocide to add to diesel to prevent "diesel bug"

Electrical spares. Electrical screwdriver, multimeter, bulbs for navigation lights and torches, torch batteries, spare fuses for all electrical equipment on board. Water for topping up lead acid batteries.

Navigation & Safety. Serviceable lifejackets for the number of people on board, with sprayhood, whistle, light, crotchstrap, harness attachment points and lines. Jackstays. Liferaft for the number of people on board. EPIRB (Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon). Appropriate flares in a waterproof container. Lifering and danbuoy. Man overboard recovery system. Throwing line. Torches and Safety knives for everyone on watch. Fog horn and spare canister or oral backup. Hand held GPS with spare batteries as backup to main GPS. Suitable scale charts, Pilot books and Almanac. Handheld VHF. Fire blankets and fire extinguisher.

Sundry items. Spare winch handles, spare keys for engine ignition, lockers and hatches. Ropes and sail ties. Buckets and lanyards. Dinghy repair kit.

Grab Bag. In the event that you need to abandon ship (absolute last resort) your grab bag should contain most of the following, but they need not be in addition to the items already on board. EPIRB. Handheld VHF, Crew passports and at least one credit card, copy of travel insurance, list of essential contact telephone numbers, any essential personal medication, seasickness remedy. Flares, signalling mirror, whistle, torches, water, drinking vessel, non thirst provoking rations.