

# 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.



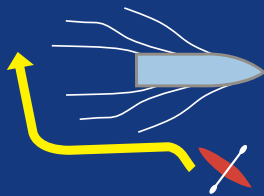
### Keep a proper lookout

- 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.**

# Paddle Safe



**Australia New Zealand  
Safe Boating Education Group**

[www.anzsbeg.com.au](http://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.**

