

KEEPING SAFE

At Le Boat we take your safety and well-being very seriously. We want you to enjoy every moment of your holiday and so it is important that everyone understands how to stay safe on the water. Please read and abide by the following safety guidelines to reduce the risk of accidents and injury while on board.

Before you set off, it is imperative that you and your crew members watch our safety video and nominate a captain and a 2nd-in-charge who will be responsible for everyone's safety. These persons will receive a briefing session from a Le Boat technician who will show them how to safely control and navigate the boat. Their signatures are required on the pre-departure paperwork to confirm this has been adequately received.



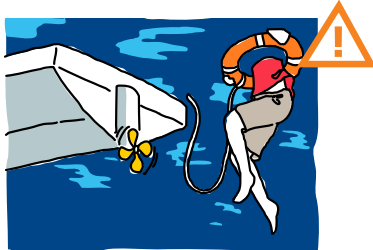
As part of your briefing session your Le Boat technician will point out to you all the safety equipment on board. It is important that you familiarise yourself and your crew with the safety equipment before leaving the base.



Children under 16 are NOT allowed to operate the boat. Children should be supervised at all times and with even greater vigilance when passing through bridges and locks.



You have been provided with life jackets* and we strongly advise all passengers to wear them while on board, particularly when inside locks (compulsory in some locks/regions) and when mooring where the risk of accidents is greater. Children and non swimmers are at greater risk and should wear a life jacket at all times when on board or near water.

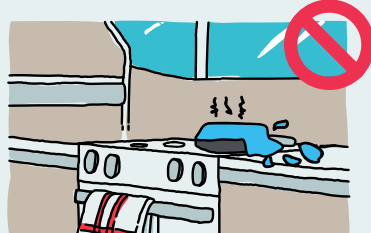


If someone falls overboard, throw a life ring and be mindful how close they are to the boat's main propeller and thrusters. Cut the engine immediately if in doubt.

COLLISIONS

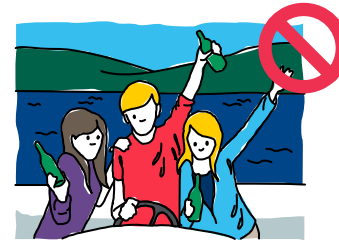


Attempt to avoid collisions by changing your course or speed, but only if it is safe to do so. If a collision is imminent, quickly alert everyone on board. Do not try to fend off or protect the boat. Instead you should move to a safe place if there's time, hold on, and brace yourself.

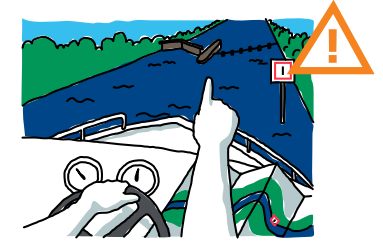


You should never use any cooking appliance while cruising as hot food or liquids can splash, spill and cause injury should you have a collision.

NAVIGATION & BOAT HANDLING



When driving be alert, always pay attention and ensure you obey the local speed restrictions. Boating under the influence of drink or drugs is illegal and significantly increases the likelihood of serious accidents. Even once you have moored, drink in moderation to avoid accidents when getting on & off and moving about the boat.



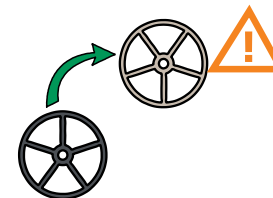
Stay within marked channels and always refer to your waterways map to identify navigational hazards, such as weirs, shallows, strong currents, swimming areas, bridges, tunnels and locks. Pass them SLOWLY and with caution.



Take care and SLOW DOWN when navigating under bridges. Bridges pose a particular danger, due to the risk of head injuries or of being crushed by becoming caught between the bridge and the boat. As such, you should alert all crew members when approaching a bridge and ensure everyone moves inside the railed confines of the sundeck, or stay inside the boat and remember to take down your bimini sunshade/parasol.



Extra care must be taken by all crew members when passing through a lock as this is an area where many preventable incidents occur. Remember NEVER to jump from the boat, always step off the boat or use the ladders in the lock when safe to do so. Go slowly, be alert and, if there is a lock keeper present, follow his or her instructions carefully.



If your boat has two steering positions, we recommend you use the upper position as a preference which ensures you always have 100% visibility when sailing. If driving from the inside of the boat then ensure one other passenger is on top deck to be able to alert you if there are any hazards. You can only use one steering position at any time, so if you want to change from one steering position to the other, make sure there is time and space to do so safely. The boat must be brought to a complete stop or preferably moored. Before setting off again, ensure the throttle lever is properly engaged, with both forward and reverse working.



DO NOT attempt to navigate in high winds or poor visibility or after dark. Our base team will keep a close eye on the weather conditions and, should there be a weather warning, they will attempt to call you. Please ensure you keep your phone charged and check your phone for messages. Should the weather deteriorate, head for the nearest and safest place to moor your boat securely, if possible a Le Boat base. Ensure your bimini and any parasols are put down. Always be aware of the weather forecast so you are fully prepared. If in doubt, please call the base team who will assist you.

BOATS ARE HEAVY



Do not sit with your arms or legs hanging over any side of the boat while it is moving.



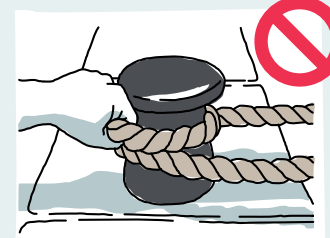
You should not attempt to stop a boat by using the mooring ropes. Use the engine to bring the boat to a safe and steady stop.



There is an increased danger of injury when passing under bridges. To reduce the risk, you should not use sun beds and stay within the railed confines of the sundeck when passing under a bridge.



Never wrap the mooring lines around hands, wrists or ankles.

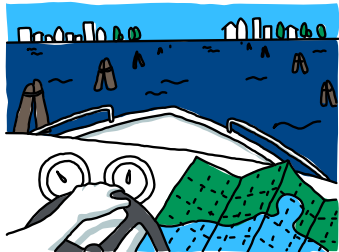


Take care not to place any part of your body between the mooring lines and a mooring bollard or the quayside.



Do not try to stop the boat by placing any part of your body between the boat and a lock wall or quayside, or by using your mooring lines. And don't 'fend off' with hands or feet, or using your boat hook.

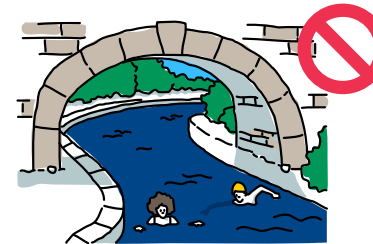
CROSSING OPEN WATER



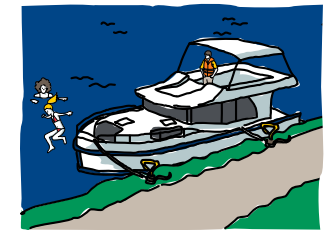
Consult your waterway guide/navigation chart before crossing open water. Follow the advice given and know where you are heading. Always stay within marked channels and do not navigate in the open sea.



Do not attempt to moor or attach your lines to buoys or channel markers. No anchoring. Overnight in ports/ marinas only. (Anchoring and overnight mooring is permitted on some lakes in Germany - please follow guidance from the base team.)



Swimming can be dangerous and it is not permitted in all areas so only swim where you are allowed to do so and please take extreme care. Do not swim in canals, near locks, bridges, weirs, marinas and in busy stretches of water where other boats pose a danger. Swimming at night and/or under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not permitted. If in doubt – stay out of the water!



If advised by the base team that swimming is permitted then your boat should be safely moored (or anchored if in open water – which is only allowed on some lakes in Germany) **YOUR ENGINE MUST BE SWITCHED OFF** and at least one adult should always stay on board the boat.

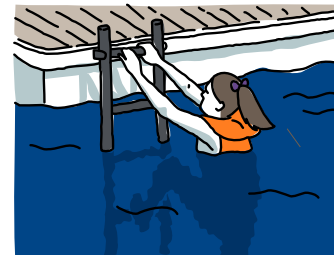


Find out the weather forecast from lock keepers and do not attempt to cross open water in high winds or in poor visibility. If in doubt, please contact our base team for guidance.

ANCHOR

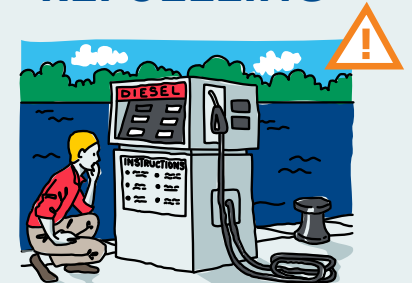


In all regions except Germany, your anchor should only be used in emergency situations – please follow any advice given by the base teams during your departure briefing. Anchors are not allowed to be used, for any reason, on canals.



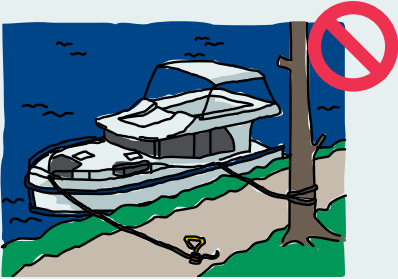
Only strong swimmers should enter the water. If you have a medical condition, you should seek medical advice before swimming. Ensure you are fit and able to exit the water safely (i.e. the swimming ladder is lowered) and that the life ring is accessible, before entering the water. We would recommend you use a personal flotation device as a precaution.

REFUELLING



If your diesel tank needs refilling, always ask for help. In some regions refuelling must be done at a marina by qualified marina staff as you are not allowed, by law, to fuel boats yourself.

SLIPS & TRIPS



Mooring lines should never extend across the towpath. Keep mooring stakes and ropes as close to the water's edge as possible.



Steps between the saloon and sundeck can be steep. Always face the steps when ascending and descending them, and use the handrails.



Take particular care when getting on and off the boat, especially in wet weather or at night. NEVER JUMP, step with care and be mindful that trip hazards along towpaths might not be visible.

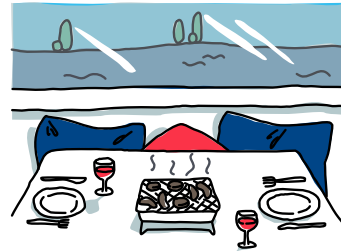


Slips, trips and falls are by far the largest cause of incidents. Take care when walking around the boat, especially in wet weather or at night. Always use the railings to steady yourself and look out for open hatches, cleats and other trip hazards. Always ensure that you dry yourself, especially your feet, after swimming as surfaces become hazardous when wet. It is essential that you wear securely fitted, non-slip footwear. Flip-flops are not adequate.

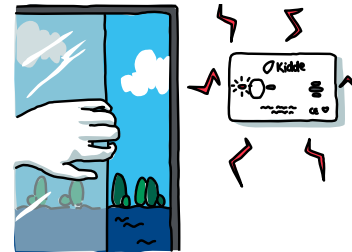
FIRE, CARBON MONOXIDE & COOKING FACILITIES



You must act quickly in the event of a fire therefore after stepping on board please spend time looking around your boat and locating your fire safety equipment and escape hatches. You will find fire extinguishers on board and a fire blanket located beside your cooking facilities that will all have instructions for use printed on the side, familiarise yourself and your crew with the operating instructions.



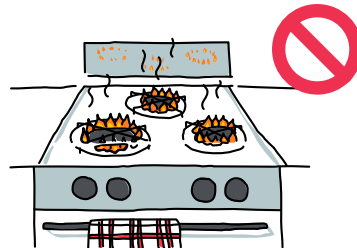
If using a barbecue then care must be taken. You must only use the barbecues provided by the base which has been safely mounted on your boat. No other barbecues are permitted on board. You must only use the barbecue when stationary and charcoal barbecues must NEVER be brought on board (even once they are extinguished).



Smoke and Carbon monoxide detectors are on every boat to provide you with early warning. Carbon monoxide is odourless and invisible. If the detector sounds at any time, or if you have any concerns, ventilate your boat by opening all the windows and hatches, shut off the gas and any other fuel-burning appliances and contact the base immediately.



If you smell gas inside your boat, extinguish all naked flames, shut off the gas at the tank, ventilate your boat, switch off mobile phones and when possible leave the boat. Once on shore mobile phones can be switched back on and contact our base immediately. Gas should be shut off at the tank when not in use and at night.

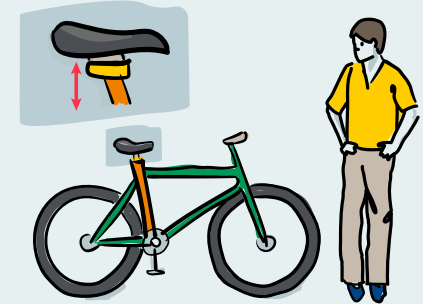


Never use any cooking facilities while cruising and never leave cookers or barbecues unattended or use them as a heat source inside the boat.



Smoking and candles are not allowed anywhere on the boat. If smoking on the towpath, ensure cigarettes are properly extinguished and disposed of in the correct manner.

BICYCLES



If you have bicycles then you must check the riding positions are suitable for all your crew before leaving base. For safety purposes it is important that the saddle height is adjusted for each rider correctly - there is a high and low position which must not be passed and if this is not in the correct position then an accident could occur. Bicycles are supplied with lights so please ensure they are in working order before leaving the base.

IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

Should you be unfortunate enough to have an accident then please contact your nearest base immediately so we can help and assist you with the best course of action.

For serious injuries or life threatening situations, call the emergency services on 112 (911 in Canada)

**Life jackets for adults are provided on all our boats and, if not already on board, children's life jackets will be available at reception.*