

Attn. Boat Owners:

Tips for Smooth Sailing

Depending on the type of boat you own, routine maintenance chores may include taking the boat out of dry dock, applying bottom paint, waxing, tuning the motor, and scouring all surfaces. Any seasoned captain knows the ocean can be unpredictable, so in the midst of these labor-intensive tasks, remember to take some time to review your insurance policy. Although most people realize the importance of adequate boating coverage, some mistakenly assume that it is provided by their **homeowners insurance**.

While a homeowners policy does offer some protection, there are many limitations and restrictions of which boat owners need to be aware. A homeowners policy may provide coverage on a boat, varying according to the size of the craft and its usage, but generally speaking, this coverage is restricted in the following ways:

- Seagoing dangers are usually not covered on a homeowners policy. These may include collision, sinking, capsizing, etc.
- Property insurance may set sub-limits on watercraft that could be in the vicinity of \$1,000-\$1,500.
- If a boat is damaged by weather elements, such as wind or hail, property insurance may not cover the loss unless the boat was in a completely enclosed building at the time of damage.
- Theft will usually not be covered if it occurred somewhere other than on the insured property.

The restrictions and limitations on material damage to the boat, as provided by homeowners insurance, are many. Additionally, boat owners should consider limitations for personal injury or property damage liability. If the injuries or damage were a result of the use of the following, they will likely not be covered under homeowners insurance:

- The insured's inboard motorboat.
- The insured's rental of an inboard motorboat whose horsepower exceeds 50.
- An outboard motor that has horsepower greater than 25.
- Sailboats that are 26 feet or longer in size, either owned or rented by the insured.

With such restrictions, many boaters seek an additional insurance solution. One such solution could be a **boat owners policy**, which can offer more extensive coverage on property and liability damages, as compared to the average homeowners policy. When shopping for a policy, boat owners should be prepared to answer such questions as the operator's age, experience level, and driving record. The age, condition, and size of the insured boat may also be questioned. Taking a moment to provide this information can save a lot of sweat and hassle down the road, and it is often well worth the time and effort. If you are a boat owner, give us a call. One of our qualified insurance professionals will be happy to discuss your boat owners insurance options.

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