

Top Ten Tools - Plus



Thanks to all boaters (power and sail) who sent in their lists of “Top Ten Tools”.

We had such a tremendous response, that we not only have a list of your Top Ten Tools, but a **comprehensive list of all the tools** that should be in every boaters toolbox.

Since there are many types of boats, the toolkit contents would vary; but the list we have compiled from all submissions is a **great starting point**. Most have **sample uses**.

Now that spring has arrived, it is a good time to assemble/**collect tools for your boat’s toolbox**. Why now? Collecting tools will help get you **in the boating mood** to prepare your boat for spring. It might even **cure the “vessel separationitis”**.

Here are your Top Ten Tools

1. Screwdriver set
2. Adjustable Wrench/Crescent Wrench
3. Duct Tape or Gorilla Tape and Electrical Tape
4. Knife
5. Hammers
6. Socket Set
7. Crimping Tool
8. Flashlight
9. Pliers
10. Vice Grips

There were many other tools recommended, but these are the Top Ten. **The complete list is in the table below**. Depending on your boat type and size, you may be wise to **add a few more tools** and supplies or **reduce some items**, that could be considered duplicate like wrenches and sockets and also tools too big or too small.

Once all the **tools are laid out on your home work bench**, size up and shop for the **plastic** or **heavy canvas** tool box, that you will need to hold everything. **Plastic or canvas is lighter** than metal and **won’t rust**. Keep in mind the **space you have** aboard to house this tool box. You may need to have two smaller boxes rather than one large—one for **more commonly used tools** and the other for **less frequently** used.

“Be Prepared” is the Boy Scout motto and that is exactly what my Scouter taught me. To this day, being prepared has **saved me** from many situations, that could have been complete disasters.

Being prepared with the right tools, can help you **deal with problems faster** and more confidently to **get you and your precious boat up and going again.**

Doug Dawson

Queen Scout

Boat Docking Expert

March 2017



Boater's Toolbox - Sailors and Power Boaters

To Loosen and Tighten

2 Hammers	Large and small	To persuade something to move. Use together to flatten propeller nicks like an anvil and sledge.
Screwdrivers	Multi-Head or Individual. Robertson (square) Philips (star), Straight	To tighten or loosen screws
Water Pump Pliers	Locking pliers, split joint pliers	To tighten or loosen large fittings and hoses
Wrench Set	Spanner Set – open ended with ratchet on other end. Imperial and/or metric	To tighten and loosen nuts and bolts
Vice Grips		To clamp tight and hold items like a third hand
Pliers	Needle Nose & Regular	To hold, tighten or loosen small fittings, or other fittings
Drill	Battery powered or hand powered, plus drill bits and screw bits	To make holes and drive screws
Allen Keys	Kit with various sizes	To tighten or loosen Allen screws
Socket Sets	Imperial or Metric. With adjustable angle head	To tighten or loosen hard to reach nuts
Spark Plug Socket	Extra deep socket	To fit spark plugs
Oil Can	And/or Spray like WD40	To lubricate and penetrate for loosening
Propeller Nut Wrench	With cotter pins	To replace prop and/or sheer pins
Adjustable Wrench	Crescent wrench	To loosen or tighten when too rushed to find correct sized wrench
Pipe Wrench	Large Adjustable or Specialty Wrench	To loosen or tighten stuffing box nuts
Crow Bar	Or Pry Bar	To move or lift heavy items
Awl	Like a heavy duty ice pick	To undo tight knots or to tighten round turnbuckles or to push a hole in canvas
Marlin Spike		To push apart strands of rope for splicing

To Cut, Hold and Seal

Sharp Blades/Multi-Tool	like Swiss Army Knife, Hunting or Fileting knife	To cut rope, line, hoses, zip ties, etc.
Meat Cord or Light Nylon Cord	Coil	To tie stuff and hang towels to dry, plus, plus
Duct Tape or Gorilla Tape		To secure anything to anything
Tape Measure		To determine length required
Pencil		To mark length or write notes
Marker		To permanently label stuff or mark off depths on anchor rode
Work Gloves		To protect hands
Hack Saw and Spare Blades	Small or regular size	To cut metal, plastic, rubber, F/G or wood
Twist Ties		To temporarily hold things in place
Clothes Pins		To temporarily hold things together or closed, separate clothes pin to create wooden wedges
Wood Chisel	Sharp	To cut material to fit
File and Rasp		To smoothen and fine tune material to fit and smooth sharp edges
Putty Knife		To spread sealant or scrape old sealant
Epoxy Putty		To seal fiberglass or plastic
Sand Paper		To smoothen or de-rust metal
Canvas Snap Kit	& Locking Tool	To replace broken or lost canvas fasteners
Can Opener	Old fashioned type	To puncture holes in tops of cans like oil and other lubricants.

Electrical & Plumbing

Electrical Tape	Black, red and white	To wrap wires and cables together. To label negative and positive battery cables.
Insulated Wire	Different colors	To replace damaged wire
Connectors & Terminal connectors		To join beared wires and to fasten wire ends to devices
Crimping Tool	With wire stripper and wire cutter	To cut wire and strip insulation. To squeeze connectors onto bare wire
Wire-wraps or Zip Ties	Various sizes	To support groups of wires and/or hoses
Multi meter	Measures voltage, amperage and ohms, etc.	To test electrical circuits and diagnose problems
Tape/Rescue Tape	Leak-fix tape, Silicone Self Fusing Tape	To temporarily seal leaks in hoses and pipes
Water Pipe and Plumbing Hose with connectors	Various lengths of both	To replace damaged pipe and hose
Hose Clamps	Various sizes	To squeeze and hold hose ends to hard fittings
Lighter/Waterproof matches		To light a fire or to warm plastic pipe to stretch over fittings
Plugs or Bungs	Tapered wooden dowels	To seal damaged thru-hull fittings or hoses. Tie one to each thru-hull for fast plugging
Hose – 6” long	With Wooden plug clamped in one end	To push over leaking thru-hull with seized sea cock.

Spare Parts & Supplies

as per your boat and motor(s)

Motor Oil
Oil Filters
Hydraulic Fluid
Transmission fluid
Gear Lube
Coolant for Closed Cooling System
Spark Plugs
Fuses
Water Pump hoses
Screws – assortment of stainless or brass
Nuts, Bolts, Washers – stainless steel
Sheer Pins - for outboard motor
Cotter Pins - stainless steel
Belts for power steering, alternator, etc
Cold Water (high efficiency) Soap – to wash oily bilge, tools, etc.
Absorbent Bilge Pads
Heavy Duty Hand Cleaner and rags
Silicone Sealer
Water Pump impellers – Motor, outdrive and water pressure pump
Fuel water separators
Garbage Bags/Plastic Shopping Bags
Inflatable Dinghy patch kit

Sail Only - Spare Parts and Supplies

Sail Repair Tape
Sailmaker's Needle and Thread
Cotter Pins or Split Rings
Clevis Pins – Stainless Steel
Winch Handle
Jiffy Lube – silicone based to lubricate mast track
Track slides for boom and mast

Other

Flashlights - LED	Several, waterproof	To see in dark bilge, lockers and docking
Toothpicks & Popsicle Sticks		To stop rattles, or apply glue
Telescoping Handle Tools	With mirror, magnet and a claw	To find and retrieve dropped parts and tools from the bilge
Pail or Bucket	5 gallon	To bail bilge leak in an emergency
Diving Mask & Flippers	Good pair of lungs	To dive to cut line from prop
Smart Phone	Everyone has one	To access youTube “how to” videos To photograph disassembly for easier re-assembly
Paper Clips	Large	Open one up to clear small jams like spray cans
First Aid Kit	Complete w/Bandaids	To fix the fixer and the “oh shits”.
Cork Screw/Can opener	Beverage	To celebrate after successful repair!

