

THE 5 DUMBEST WAYS TO SINK YOUR BOAT

1. Pulling the Plug

Ever launch your boat without first replacing the drain plug? If you're lucky, you'll notice the bilge pump working overtime and the slow settling of the boat before any major damage is done. If you're unlucky, you'll get on plane fairly quickly and head offshore with the drain plug on the dashboard of the truck!!

2. Killing your Batteries

The second most common way to sink a boat is simple neglect – leaving it unattended at the dock. Frequent rainstorms or even minor leaks cause the bilge pump to drain the batteries. When the juice gets used up, the pump shuts down and water collects in the bilge. When enough freeboard is reduced and a drain goes below the water level, your boat is toast.

3. Getting Hosed

This is one item most boat owners don't think about but they should. Especially on inboards, a broken or burst hose can spell disaster. Even something as simple as a livewell hose can sink your boat. In some cases, the hose clamp fails and the force of the water flow dislodges the hose. If the hose happens to be an exhaust cooling hose and bursts while underway, there's a big problem. The engine pumps gallons and gallons of water into the bilge at maximum efficiency.

4. Swamp Thing

Many boating accidents occur due to capsizing or swamping. There are always dangers from breaking inlet waves and quickly developing storms but many people underestimate the size of boat wakes. A wave can dump gallons of water into your boat in less time than it takes to light a cigar.

5. Collision Course

Unfortunately, a piling or other flotsam often floats just at the surface where it's difficult to see. Always maintain a speed appropriate with conditions and keep a proper lookout.