

# BOAT INSURANCE BUYING TIPS

## **CONSOLIDATE INSURANCE POLICIES**

Insuring your boat with the same company as your auto and home could save you up to 10% on your premium.

## **INCREASE THE DEDUCTIBLE**

One rule of thumb is to carry the highest deductible you can afford. By increasing your deductible from \$100 to \$1000, you could save up to 20% on your premium.

## **IMPROVE YOUR BOAT SECURITY**

Most insurance companies offer discounts for burglar alarms covering your boat while it is at your home. Boats with burglar alarms connected to third-party monitoring companies receive higher discounts than boats with local bell alarms. Another safety device which will give you credit on your policy is an automatic fire extinguishing system in the engine compartment.

## **CONSTRUCTION TYPE**

Before buying a boat consider its construction--you may have difficulty finding insurance for a boat made of wood. Recently renovated boats cost less to insure, so you may want to find out when the last major electrical, heating and plumbing update was completed. Also, you can save 5% just by maintaining an automatic built-in fire extinguisher in the engine compartment. If your boat is operated by a diesel engine, a discount is available for Physical Damage coverage.

## **VERIFY DISTANCE TO FIRE STATIONS AND COASTAL AREAS**

Just like owning a home, if you live out in the country you'll probably pay higher rates for your boat than if you lived in town. This is because of the distance between your local fire station and where your boat is moored. If your boat is more than 5 miles from the nearest fire station and more than 1000 feet from a fire hydrant, you will probably pay a higher premium. It costs more to insure a boat in coastal waters, especially in areas exposed to hurricanes, than boats in inland lakes and rivers, and still more if you use your boat throughout the year. You may not be able to get windstorm coverage in some areas if you cannot assure the insurance company that before a hurricane your boat will be taken to a "safe harbor" such as a concrete storage facility or warehouse, depending on the size of your craft.

**BLACK & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE**  
8605 N DIVISION SUITE A  
SPOKANE, WA 99208  
(509) 464-0058  
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### **CLAIMS FREE RECORD AND RENEWEL DISCOUNTS**

If you have not had a claim in the last 3-5 consecutive years, you could receive up to a 15% discount, depending on the insurance company. Most companies will discount your premium if the policy has been in force for 3 continuous years.

### **CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND SAFETY COURSES**

Tickets and accidents increase your premiums. Most insurance companies offer discounts to drivers with boating experience and favorable family driving records. If you do not have a valid automobile drivers license, you will probably have difficulty obtaining insurance as most companies run a motor vehicle report on all their policyholders.

**Call Janet Carpenter at 509-464-0058  
Black & Associates Insurance, Inc.  
8605 N Division Suite A  
Spokane, WA 99208**

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