

I'm not a bot

























Toll Free: 800-992-4443Local: 949-642-5174Fax: 949-642-0252License #0D36887 When water is life, there are few greater joys than cutting across the lake or ocean on your favorite vessel. Of course, it's your pride and joy. But is your boat protected against physical damage, theft, collisions, and other threats? Many boat owners don't realize that neither auto insurance nor homeowners insurance policies cover boats, leaving them underinsured and underprotected. You're liable for any damage or injuries your boat causes, and without boat insurance coverage, you could be stuck footing a bill for thousands of dollars. To make sure you're covered if your boat is damaged or involved in an accident, you need quality boat insurance, and a local independent insurance agent can help you get the right policy. While it isn't mandatory in most states, it is highly recommended to protect your wallet and your vessel. Here's what boat owners should know about boat insurance coverage. What Is Boat Insurance? So, what is boat insurance, exactly? Boat insurance covers you in the event your boat is damaged, stolen, or involved in an accident. Some policies include both bodily injury liability and property damage liability insurance, which help pay for injuries or damage that your boat causes. Most watercraft with motors, including fishing boats, pontoon boats, paddle boats, leisure crafts, and yachts, are covered by boat insurance. It doesn't typically cover canoes, kayaks, or personal watercraft (PWC), like Jet Skis. However, small watercraft may have limited coverage under your homeowners policy. You might also be able to add a special endorsement or buy separate coverage for them. What Does Boat Insurance Cover? What's covered by your boat insurance coverage varies based on the type of vessel that's insured, as well as the types of coverage you choose for your policy. Similar to auto insurance, your policy can include several types of boat insurance to provide well-rounded protection, such as: Collision damage: This coverage includes repair or replacement of your boat due to damage from a collision, but may not include cleanup of wreckage unless you purchase optional additional coverage. Property damage liability: This can help cover damage that you cause to someone else's boat or other personal property from structures. Bodily injury liability: This helps cover the costs of injuries you cause someone else while using your boat. It includes medical bills, lost income, pain and suffering, and legal expenses. Comprehensive: This can provide compensation if your boat is vandalized, stolen, or damaged in an incident other than a collision. Additional coverage options: Coverage is also available for medical payments, fishing equipment, oil spills, personal effects, and roadside assistance, as well as damage and injuries from accidents caused by boaters who are uninsured or underinsured. A standard boat insurance policy may provide coverage for the following: Damage or loss caused by theft, vandalism, windstorms, and lightning Additional collision or impact damage to your boat's hull, sails, equipment, furnishings, and motor Damage your boat does to other boats and property Bodily injury or death of another person caused by your boat, including their legal expenses, pain and suffering, and medical bills The amount of compensation you receive for a boat insurance claim depends on a few things, including your deductibles, limits, and whether your boat's insurance covers your boat's actual cash value, replacement cost, or agreed-upon value. Boat Insurance Coverage Add-Ons Want better or broader protection? Additional boat insurance coverage types can help close gaps in your policy to extend coverage to other items or protect against more events. Items or protections you might add to your boat's policy include: New boat replacement Uninsured/underinsured boater Fuel spill liability Wreckage removal and salvage Medical payments for you and your passengers Guest passenger liability (for legal expenses incurred by someone operating your boat with your permission) Boat trailers Special equipment, like fishing gear Boat accessories, like radar ice and freeze coverage (for damage to the engine or water systems) Mechanical breakdown On-water towing Hurricane haul-out provisions Loss or theft of personal property from the boat may not be covered unless it's listed on the policy. Before paying for the extra coverage, though, check to see if your homeowners insurance policy might cover these items. What Boat Insurance Doesn't Cover So, what isn't covered by boat insurance? Though boat insurance is designed to protect you and your boat, it doesn't cover everything. Your individual policy should have a list of exclusions, or damage and events that your boat insurance won't cover. It's important to understand these so you can work to prevent them as diligently as possible. While exclusions will vary by policy and insurer, common exclusions include damage caused by: Mold Insect damage or infestation, such as from termites Land and sea creatures, such as waterfowl, sharks, or zebra mussels Rust and corrosion Normal wear and tear Negligence Manufacturer defects, including in the boat's design Machinery damage Overuse Your independent insurance agent can help review your specific policy with you to be certain of its exact coverage exclusions. Do You Need Boat Insurance? Boaters often want to know whether boat insurance is required to enjoy the water. Unless you're in Arkansas, Hawaii, or Utah, the answer is no, boat insurance isn't required by law, but that doesn't mean you don't need it. Arkansas, Hawaii, and Utah each require coverage for boats by law. Arkansas and Utah both mandate boat liability coverage for vessels with engines of 50 horsepower or higher. If you want to dock your boat at a marina, they may require you to purchase liability coverage, too. Additionally, if you financed your boat purchase, your lender would likely require you to have more extensive boat insurance coverage to minimize financial risk. Hawaii requires boat insurance for vessels that are at least 26 feet in length. But even if you're not located in a state that legally requires you to purchase boat insurance, it's worth getting anyway. All it takes is one accident to total your boat or leave you with a significant bill if you don't have the appropriate coverage. How Does Boat Insurance Work? Boat insurance works by compensating you for the expenses of covered incidents and damage, according to your policy's limits, deductible, and more. When you buy boat insurance, you must decide on the amount and types of coverage you need for your boat, plus the deductible (i.e., your out-of-pocket expense per claim). Generally, the higher your deductible, the lower your monthly payments. If you're involved in an accident, experience a theft, or suffer another loss that's covered under your policy, you can file a boat insurance claim and receive a payment to help cover the loss. The amount you receive depends on your policy's limits and coverage. Your policy's limits are the most you can be paid for a claim, and different coverage types often have different limits. These dictate how much you may receive for each type of claim you file. For example, you may have liability coverage up to \$65,000 per event and boat trailer coverage up to \$4,500, its agreed-upon value. You may also have more comprehensive coverage up to your boat's replacement cost (the real cost to replace it). So, how does boat insurance work when an accident happens? If you get in an accident with another boat and it causes serious damage to your vessel, what happens next will vary based on your coverage, the other boater's coverage, and state laws. Here are a few possibilities: If you're deemed to be at fault, your boat collision insurance can help cover the damage up to the limits of the policy, if you have that coverage. If the other boater was at fault, their boat liability coverage can pay for your damage up to the limits of their policy. If the other boater was at fault but did not have boat insurance or did not have enough to cover your expenses, your uninsured/underinsured boaters insurance could cover the damage, if you have that coverage. Your independent insurance agent can help you ensure you have enough coverage to protect your boat from many potential scenarios. How Much Does Boat Insurance Cost? In general, boat insurance can range anywhere from as little as \$200 to as much as \$500 per year. If you are looking for boat insurance for older boats, costs will vary significantly. The cost of boat insurance can vary depending on: The coverage types, limits, and deductibles you want The state you live in The type, size, and age of the boat you wish to insure The size of the motor and how it's powered The requirements of your lender or marina Whether you operate the boat on inland waters or the open seas Boat insurance companies also offer a number of boat insurance discounts that can give you a price break in certain situations. For example, you might be eligible for a lay-up discount if you don't use the boat year-round, or a discount for boating in fresh water instead of salt water. You may also qualify for discounts if you've taken a boating safety course or have a clean boating record. Safety equipment, like shore-to-shore radios and Coast Guard-approved fire extinguishers, can also help you score discounts. Insurance companies vary in the discounts they offer. An independent insurance agent can compare boat insurance quotes and options from multiple carriers to find you the best deal. How Much Boat Insurance Do I Need? The amount of boat insurance you need depends on a number of factors, including the boat's value, motor size, age, and how you use it. Your own risk tolerance level should also be considered. If you have a brand-new high-performance speedboat, for example, you'll likely need more liability and collision coverage than if you own an older pleasure cruiser. Insurance professionals recommend buying at least \$1,000,000 in liability insurance. If you have a boat that's riskier to operate, more valuable, and can cause more damage than other vessels, you should have even more coverage. For uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, a typical recommended minimum is \$10,000. However, the amount you purchase should reflect the potential injuries and damage you may need to cover if you, your passengers, or your vessel is harmed. Your other policy limits, including for collision and comprehensive coverage, should be based specifically on the value of your boat. Where Can I Get Boat Insurance? You can easily obtain boat insurance quotes online to directly compare your options and prices. If you have questions, special circumstances, or a high-dollar boat to insure, your best bet is to work with an independent insurance agent. To find the best boat insurance rates available, contact a local independent insurance agent who knows the insurance regulations in your area. They can compare options and rates from multiple companies to help you make an informed decision. And down the road, your agent can help you update your policy when necessary and can even file boat insurance claims for you. FAQs About Boat Insurance Typical boat insurance policies may cover theft, vandalism, windstorms, lightning, and collision damage. They may also cover property damage and bodily injury caused by your boat. It's important to remember that policies will vary by insurer and may not automatically include these protections. If you want to add on to a standard boat insurance policy, you can generally pick and choose which additional coverages you'd like. Options include but aren't limited to: Uninsured/underinsured boater Fuel spill liability Wreckage removal and salvage Medical payments for you and your passengers Boat trailer coverage Special equipment coverage, like fishing gear Boat accessories coverage, like radar ice and freeze coverage (for damage to the engine or water systems) Mechanical breakdown On-water towing Comprehensive boat insurance covers the theft of the boat itself. Personal possessions carried in the boat may not be covered by your boat insurance, but may be covered by your homeowners insurance, depending on your policy. If you plan to carry expensive fishing equipment or other items of value, you can purchase one or more additional riders or policy endorsements to cover those assets. Because your propeller is part of your boat, it should be included in your policy unless it's damaged in an event that's not covered by your insurance, such as a shark attack. However, you should always review your coverage to be certain. Your passengers are generally protected as long as you have medical payments or personal injury protection coverage for them and yourself. Depending on the insurance company and structure of your policy, boat insurance may or may not cover hurricane damage. If tropical storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, or windstorms are a concern where you live or travel with your boat, ask your agent about storm damage coverage for your watercraft. Boat insurance sometimes covers engine damage. It depends primarily on what caused it. If the engine was damaged in a collision or covered event, then you should be eligible for compensation if you file a claim. You may also be able to purchase mechanical breakdown coverage. However, if the engine is damaged by manufacturing defects, land or sea creatures, or other non-covered events, it likely won't be covered. Some policies also have mechanical exclusions, particularly for older engines. If you have mechanical breakdown coverage, your blown engine may be covered. However, if the damage was caused by a non-covered event, it likely won't be. Check with your independent agent to verify if it's covered, as policies vary greatly. If your boat insurance policy includes collision insurance, it should cover damage caused by collisions with submerged obstacles, including rocks and logs. Bottom line: absolutely. Having the appropriate coverage could save you thousands of dollars and allow you to keep boating with peace of mind and minimal interruptions. Without it, just one bad accident could ruin your finances or ability to go boating. All these boat insurance coverages may blow your heads away if you don't have any prior knowledge about them. As a payor, it is essential to know your boat insurance policy and all those coverages that you are getting. We will now see what does boat insurance generally covers?Boat insurance usually covers collision coverage (with docks, boats, etc.), liability coverage (bodily injury & property damage to others), and comprehensive coverage (non-collision-related losses) in a standard policy. Yet, depending on the insurer, you can still add/remove coverages in your plan.Collision, liability, and comprehensive coverages are the basic coverages you will get in a standard boat insurance policy. Based on your insurance company, you may get more or fewer coverages in one policy, and sometimes you can take additional coverages if you didn't get what's needed.Depending on the insurance company, you may get 5 insurance coverages (collision, liability, comprehensive, uninsured/underinsured coverage, and medical coverage) as one package or sometimes more or less in one standard insurance policy. So, choose your plans wisely.Before looking at each insurance coverage's details, you need to get familiarized with some of the insurer's terms. You can skip those definitions part if you already know them.1. Deductible - The deductible amount is the part of an insurance claim you have to pay. You can claim the insurance only if your insurance claim exceeds the deductible amount; otherwise, you can't claim your insurance.For example, a \$10,000 covered loss with a \$1,000 deductible will pay \$9,000, which means you have to pay \$1,000, and the insurance company will pay \$9,000 for a \$10,000 loss or damage to your boat. Therefore, look at those deductible amounts carefully before taking any insurance policy.2. Coverage limits - The coverage limit is the total amount your insurance company will pay for any loss or damage to your boat. If your loss or damage exceeds that coverage limit, you have to pay the rest of the amount from your pocket.For example, a \$20,000 covered loss with a \$15,000 coverage limit will pay you only \$15,000, and you have to pay the rest of the amount, i.e., \$5,000 from your wallet. Therefore, look at those coverage limits carefully before taking any insurance policy. However, you can increase that coverage limit by paying more premiums (money) each year.3. Actual cash value vs. Agreed cash value - The actual cash value is the amount you will get if you claim your insurance. The amount you will get depends on your boat's current (depreciated) value based on age or wear and tear. If you have a total loss, your policy may not provide enough coverage to replace your boat.4. Agreed cash value - The agreed cash value is the amount you will get if you claim your insurance. The amount you will get will be enough to repair or replace your boat with the same type and quality up to the agreed value. This is preferable to actual cash value, and it's ideally expensive as well.That being said, we will first see each insurance coverages (all types) in a detailed way. Then we will see does boat insurance covers theft, hurricane, outboards, sinking, equipment loss, freeze damages, trailer damages, vandalism, other drivers, etc., or not?Related post - Do boat trailers need insurance? Check this article to know more about the insurance requirements for a boat trailer and to know whether your boat or homeowners insurance will cover the trailer or not.Importantly note - Generally, most insurance covers the damages only if they happened in the range of 100 or 200 miles or more, depending on your policy. If you go beyond that range, your insurer may not cover anything for you.Collision coverage pays for your boat if you are involved in any boating accident with other boats, docks, rocks, or anything related to your boat collision, regardless of your fault. From the name alone, you can tell what this coverage covers.The collision coverage only covers your boat's damages, not for other boats. If you are involved in any boating accident and have collision coverage, it will pay for your boat damages only; it won't pay anything for other boats or other person's injuries or other property damages.It is always good to select your collision coverage, not only in the water. If anything happens to your boat outside the water, like collision while trailering, collision on land, etc., so that you can claim that amount from the insurer rather than from your pocket.Basic Collision coverage insurance covers damages to:MotorsSailsHull damageAnchorsAny equipmentOnly two states have boat insurance laws-Arkansas and Utah. This means you should have boat insurance if you live in those areas and meets their credibility boat edLiability coverage pays if you cause any damage to other boats or cause any injuries to other persons while boating. Liability coverage doesn't cover your own boating-related injuries or damages. So, basically, liability coverage will not cover anything for you; it will cover only the damages caused by your boat to others.If your boat caused any damage to other boats due to any large waves or any others, liability coverage would cover those too. Liability coverage also protects you from covered claims and lawsuits, including payment of settlements and legal fees.There are basically two types of liability coverages.Property damage liabilityBodily injury liabilityProperty damage liability will pay for damages to the other property caused by your boat, and it won't cover anything for your property damages. If you damage another person's boat, dock, or any property with your boat, it will pay on behalf of you so that you don't have to pay that money (by yourself).Bodily injury liability will pay for other person's injuries (all the medical bills) caused by your boat, and it won't cover anything for your injuries. If you cause any injuries to other persons while driving the boat, it will pay on your behalf if you are unable to pay that money (by yourself).If you injured someone with your boat or caused damage to other boats, this coverage could help pay their medical bills and income loss. Liability coverage is the most basic coverage issued by most insurance companies. With some good boat liability plans, you can cover court costs and settlements if you face a lawsuit.In addition, if you plan to dock your boat, some marinas and harbors will require you to show proof of liability coverage. Most marinas require \$100K's or more in liability coverage if you want to keep your boat at the marina.Comprehensive coverage pays for the damages caused for your boat other than collision-related like theft, vandalism, fire, etc. If anything happens to your boat due to any natural calamities like heavy winds, storms, hurricanes, and other weather-related damages, the comprehensive coverage will cover those bills as well.Comprehensive coverage covers damages caused to: Boat motorHull damageAny equipment (portable and non-portable)Boating equipment (like fishing gear)Collision coverage is related to other in terms of the claim or theft of them coverages. Both of them coverages are related to your boat trailer (not the boat). For example, a progressive insurance company will pay your expenses if your trailer breaks down within 100 miles from home. They will reimburse you up to \$500 to cover food, hotel, and other transportation costs.Related post - Do boat trailers need insurance? Check this article to know more about the insurance requirements for a boat trailer and to know whether your boat or homeowners insurance will cover the trailer or not.Boat insurance will cover the damages caused to your boat if you hit the rocks or any floating logs in the water. Collision coverage comes in a standard boat insurance policy, and it will cover all the damages related to boat collision with other boats, docks, piers, rocks, logs, etc.Hitting rocks or logs or anything while boating comes under boat collision coverage. Since most of the standard insurance policies will have collision coverage, you can claim the insurance if you hit (collide) anything in the water while boating.This claim will only cover your boat damages, not for other boat damages or property or docks or anything other than your boat damage.Boat insurance will cover damages caused by vandalism for your boat if you have comprehensive coverage in your boat insurance policy. Otherwise, you can't claim your insurance for damages related to non-collision like vandalism, theft, storm, hurricane, and other damages.A standard boat insurance plan will mostly have comprehensive coverage; if not, you can add it as additional coverage. The total amount you may get depends on your value plan (actual cash value or agreed cash value). Although without a proper sign of your boat gets stolen or anything, you can't claim insurance.So, if your boat gets stolen, you may have to show some proof to the insurance company to claim your money.Boat insurance will cover a sunken boat; if your boat sunk due to a collision, you can claim the insurance if you have collision coverage. If your boat sunk due to natural calamity (non-collision-related issues), you can claim insurance if you have comprehensive coverage in your insurance plan.A standard boat insurance plan will mostly have collision coverage and comprehensive coverage; if not, you can add it as additional coverage. The total amount you may get depends on your value plan (actual cash value or agreed cash value).However, you may need to pay for removing or towing your boat out of the water if you don't have wreckage removal coverage in your boat insurance policy.Boat insurance will cover engine damage or cracked engine block only if the damage happened to your engine is not-related to normal wear or tear due to lack of maintenance. If the motor is wrecked in an accident or stolen, boat insurance will cover those who if you have collision/comprehensive coverage. Boat engines require service and maintenance at regular intervals or after every ride, like cleaning to prevent corrosion or any. If you don't do your maintenance regularly and got any problem, an insurer can determine the cause for the damage, and they could refuse to pay for your repairs.Other than that, if anything happens to your engine (like collision, stolen, etc.), you can claim your insurance.Boat insurance will cover storm or hurricane damages for your boat only if you have comprehensive coverage in your insurance policy. Otherwise, you can't claim your insurance for damages related to non-collision like a storm, hurricane, vandalism, theft, and other damages.A standard boat insurance plan will mostly have comprehensive coverage; if not, you can add it as additional coverage. The total amount you may get depends on your value plan (actual cash value or agreed cash value). With that, you can cover all the damages caused due to weather-related issues.Comprehensive coverage will cover motors, sails, hull damage, safety equipment loss, etc., damages and losses.Boat insurers won't generally cover trailers in their normal or standard boat insurance policy; you need to add trailer coverage to the insurance plan to cover any damages caused to your boat trailer. So, unless if you use the boat trailer, don't take that additional insurance coverage.Boat trailer coverage pays if anything happens to your boat trailer (not the boat). For example, a progressive insurance company will pay your expenses if your trailer breaks down within 100 miles from home. They will reimburse you up to \$500 to cover food, hotel, and other transportation costs.Related post - Do boat trailers need insurance? Check this article to know more about the insurance requirements for a boat trailer and to know whether your boat or homeowners insurance will cover the trailer or not.Boat insurance will cover the damages caused to your boat if you hit the rocks or any floating logs in the water. Collision coverage comes in a standard boat insurance policy, and it will cover all the damages related to boat collision with other boats, docks, piers, rocks, logs, etc.Hitting rocks or logs or anything while boating comes under boat collision coverage. Since most of the standard insurance policies will have collision coverage, you can claim the insurance if you hit (collide) anything in the water while boating.This claim will only cover your boat damages, not for other boat damages or property or docks or anything other than your boat damage.Boat insurance will cover damages caused by vandalism for your boat if you have comprehensive coverage in your boat insurance policy. Otherwise, you can't claim your insurance for damages related to non-collision like vandalism, theft, storm, hurricane, and other damages.A standard boat insurance plan will mostly have comprehensive coverage; if not, you can add it as additional coverage. The total amount you may get depends on your value plan (actual cash value or agreed cash value). With that, you can cover all the damages caused due to vandalism, theft, and others that are not related to boat collisions.Comprehensive coverage will cover motors, sails, hull damage, safety equipment loss, etc., damages and losses.Boat insurance won't generally cover the damages related to freezing (weather) in their normal or standard boat insurance policy; you need to add freeze coverage as additional coverage to the insurance plan to cover your boat's freeze damages.In most cases, this insurance is primarily for the engine and may not offer protection for the engine's body. Ask your insurance agent what type of additional freeze coverage they offer and learn the terms of the coverage range before making your decision (source).These types of additional insurance coverage will offer protection from freezing temperatures. But to claim them, you need to do appropriate maintenance checks before storing them for the winter, like proper winterization before storing the boat, regular checks during winter, etc.Boat insurance will cover other drivers (operators) only if your friend's name is there in the covered driver list or if you have any driver coverage. If you often give the boat to others, it is good to mention their names in the covered list to avoid future problems.Only a few insurance companies will cover any driver operating your boat as long as they are not explicitly excluded from the policy. So, if you give your boat to others (children, siblings, other friends), it is best to consider those types of policies.A standard boat insurance policy will cover collision coverage, liability coverage, and comprehensive coverage in general. Based on the insurance company, you can add/remove coverages in your policy. That's why you can add additional coverages if you didn't get what's needed in a standard policy.Similar to a car, boating insurance is essential for your boat. Although most states don't require boat insurance except Arkansas and Utah, it doesn't mean that you don't have to worry about insurance unless you live in one of those two states.Choose your boat insurance coverages wisely without wasting money on unnecessary coverages.Please note:The above is meant as general information and general policy descriptions to help you understand the different types of coverages. These descriptions do not refer to any specific contract of insurance, and they do not modify any definitions, exclusions, or any other provision expressly stated in any contracts of insurance. We encourage you to speak to your insurance representative and read your policy contract to understand your coverages fully. 4 minutes to read Boat liability coverage may pay for damages or injuries you're responsible for while on the water, up to the limits of your policy. Liability coverage encompasses damage you cause to docks, pilings, and other boats as well as injuries to your passengers and other boaters. Most policies include coverage for your passengers who are involved in watersports like tubing, wakeboarding, and waterskiing. In many cases, liability coverage will also pay for fuel spill remediation and wreckage removal if your watercraft sinks and is required to be removed. Comprehensive and collision Comprehensive coverage protects your watercraft against damages from events outside of your control, including theft and vandalism, explosions, and fire, falling trees and objects, hurricanes, lightning, and other weather-related issues. Collision coverage can pay for damage to your boat if you collide with another watercraft or object (even if it's submerged), regardless of fault. You're also covered if your boat capsizes. Assuming these coverages are included on your boat policy, your watercraft's furnishings, fittings, motors, anchors, fuel tanks, batteries, and onboard safety equipment may be covered if damage results from a covered incident. Learn more about comprehensive and collision coverage for boats. Uninsured/underinsured boater Uninsured/underinsured boater coverage pays for your and your passengers' injuries if you're hit by a boater with no insurance or not enough coverage, up to the limits of your policy. Medical payments Medical payments coverage pays for the medical bills for you and your passengers if you're in a covered accident, regardless of fault. In some states, this coverage will begin once you've exhausted your health insurance coverage limits. Fishing equipment or carry-on items Some boat insurance companies may offer to cover the replacement of fishing equipment and personal property like scuba gear, marine binoculars, or any items that are lost or stolen. Learn more about Progressive's available boat insurance coverages, including our Propulsion Plus® mechanical breakdown coverage, total loss replacement, and roadside assistance for your boat trailer. What is full coverage boat insurance? There's no official group of coverages that comprise a full coverage boat insurance policy. However, if you finance your watercraft, your lender may use the term "full coverage," which typically means they're requiring you to carry a boat policy with comprehensive and collision, sometimes referred to as hull coverage, along with liability coverage.Pro tip:With our Sign & Glide® On-Water Towing, i Progressive will pay for on-water towing, jump starts, soft un-groundings, and fuel delivery if your boat is disabled on the water. Boat insurance generally won't cover maintenance or general wear and tear, including: Gradual weathering and deteriorationInsect damageMoldDamage from animals or marine life Learn how boat insurance works and find out how much boat insurance costs. Get the best coverage for you and your boatCoverages explainedTerms & definitions There is some debate in the marine world about what constitutes an antique or classic boat, but the Antique and Classic Society use the following definitions:Historic: boats built up to and including 1918.Antique: boats built between 1919 and 1942, inclusive.Classic: boats built between 1943 and 1975, inclusive.To secure insurance for a boat over 60 years old you will normally be required to complete a form self-certifying that the boat is seaworthy and provide the insurer with photographs of the vessel. Boats over 100 years old will require a full survey before they can be insured.Alan Boswell Group boat insurance includes a 125% repair clause (meaning it will pay a further 25% over the sum insured) to recognise that older boats can be more expensive to repair than their market value. Do you need different insurance for boats that are used both at sea and inland?Some insurers cater exclusively for boats used on inland waters, like canal boats and cruisers used on the Norfolk Broads, but Alan Boswell Group caters for those used inland or at sea.The premium will depend on how and where the boat is used, its cruising range, and its value. What is excluded from a standard boat insurance policy?Each boat insurance policy will have its own specific policy wording and exclusions, but a standard boat insurance policy will usually exclude the following:Deterioration and loss of value due to wear and tear. Lack of maintenance, and ageing.Damage caused by vermin, insects, marine life, and damp.Wilful misconduct or neglect.Damage to machinery following a breakdown, fault, or short circuit.Damage done while the user is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.Racing cover, although Alan Boswell Group sailboat policies automatically include local club racing cover.As well as these standard exclusions, there are a few other scenarios where boat insurance policies differ, and it's essential to check that you will have the right cover for your boat and how you will use it.Policy excess: this is the first part of any claim that you will have to pay yourself. Make sure you are happy with the level of excess, which can also sometimes be increased to reduce the premium.Seasonal cover: some policies only provide cover for you to use the boat at certain times of the year, with it stored ashore for the rest of the time. Check if your policy has any such limitations.Cruising limits: does your policy have any restrictions on the cruising range? For example, you may have to extend your limits if you're leaving coastal waters.Water sports: if you plan to use your boat for water sports, such as towing toys or water skiers, check that you are covered.It's important to remember to update your insurance if you purchase additional equipment, or change the specification of your boat, to ensure your cover isn't invalidated in the event of a claim. Do I need a licence to own and insure my boat?To simply own a boat that is kept ashore, you don't need a licence.To use your boat on inland waterways you will need to register your boat, and you may also need a licence, a Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) certificate and third-party insurance with a minimum indemnity limit of £1m. Although this can vary; the Broads Authority, who are responsible for the Norfolk Broads, requires a minimum indemnity limit of £2m.The BSS certificate applies to all boats fitted with cooking, heating, refrigeration, or lighting powered by a permanent electrical system.If you are required to have a Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) certificate and licence but use your boat without one, then your insurance would be invalidated.To find out if you need a licence, BSS certificate, or will need to pay a toll, check with the navigation authority which manages the waterway you will be using.If you plan to take your boat beyond UK territorial waters to another country, you must carry a registration document administered by the UK Ship Register. Do I need a qualification to use my boat?No, you don't need any qualifications to use a boat on inland waters. For insurance purposes, insurers will often be more interested in seeing evidence of your experience over qualifications. If you plan to sail your boat in overseas territories, you may need the International Certificate of Competence issued by the RYA. Different countries have different rules, so check before you travel.We would recommend any boat owner to consider gaining a qualification. The RYA courses are a good place to start, more information can be found here. Can someone else insure my boat?Yes, as long as they have an 'insurable interest' i.e., they must stand to suffer a loss should there be a claim. For example, if you charter or offer a long-term loan to a friend, who subsequently damages it, they will have to pay for the repair if it isn't insured.Your policy may also allow you to lend to other users, in which case someone else would be permitted to use your boat as long as they had your permission - but be sure to check your policy wording which will detail if this is covered and if there are any terms. How much does boat insurance cost?The cost of boat insurance varies significantly depending on the type of boat, its value, top speed, where it is used and moored, and the experience and claims history of the owner. What factors can affect the cost of boat insurance?Many factors can influence your boat insurance premium, some of which relate to the type of boat and what it's used for, plus other factors like security, mooring location, and value.The type of boatA small boat used inland will naturally be cheaper to insure than a large sea-going yacht. The value of your boat is a significant factor in the cost of insurance, but its engine power is an additional consideration.How you use your boatThe cost of boat insurance is partly determined by how and where you use your boat. It is used for short trips on inland waterways or for longer offshore trips, including to overseas territories?While Alan Boswell Group includes cover for local sailing racing, some insurers charge extra for such activities, so always check if you are paying over the odds for racing.Boat securitySecurity is a huge factor in the cost of boat insurance, but there are many measures you can take to prevent theft, help recover stolen goods and, in some cases, reduce your premium:Use a proprietary engine lock to secure outboard motors and padlocks or combination padlocks to secure hatches and fuel tanks.When your boat is being stored on land, secure the boat - and trailer - to a solid structure and use wheel clamps on the trailer: Ensure that your property is identifiable. Make a note of any serial numbers on equipment and mark each item - covertly and more obviously - with identifiable information, such as a postcode, date of birth, or name.Tag photographs.Moor your boat in a marina and ask if it has CCTV.Further tips making it as easy as possible for the police to recover stolen property can be found here.Your boating experience and claims historyYour premium may be cheaper if you are an experienced boater with no history of claims made in the past. If you have made previous claims, you may get a higher premium depending on how long ago they were.Boat insurance discountsDifferent insurers will have different standard excesses, but it may be possible to voluntarily increase your excess to gain a discount on your premium.Multi-vessel discountsAlan Boswell Group offers a discount to those who own two or more boats.No-claims bonusThe longer you go without making a claim, the higher the premium discount you accrue. With our boat insurance, you can build a discount of up to 25%.Boat insurance is essential to give you peace of mind while you enjoy the tranquility of Britain's waterways.To get a boat insurance quote, give us a call on 01603 649650.