

# Travelers PI FAQs

## BOAT FAQs

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### POLICY BASICS

#### What is boat insurance, and why do I need it?

Boat and yacht insurance — sometimes referred to as marine insurance — is designed to protect you and everyone who shares the water from the potentially high cost of accident-related and other damages or injuries. It is a contract between you and your insurance company in which you pay a certain amount — or “premium” — to the insurance company in exchange for a set of coverages you select.

A basic marine insurance policy is legally required in some states, particularly for larger vessels and powerboats. If you finance or lease your vessel, your lender may also require specific insurance coverages and limits.

Beyond legal requirements, carrying boat or yacht insurance is a smart decision. Contrary to popular belief, your vessel is not covered under your auto or homeowners policy. If you cause an accident or get into one with an uninsured or underinsured operator, you may be held responsible to cover related expenses, such as repairs, property damage, medical bills, lost wages, legal fees and more. Without the proper coverage, your financial well-being may be at risk.

Working with an agent to create a marine insurance policy that fits your individual needs and budget can protect you, your loved ones and your assets from accidents in and out of the water.

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#### Which type of marine or other policies do I need to protect my boat?

Travelers offers comprehensive coverage options, for a variety of vessels. Here is a general guide to help you find the right policy to insure your boat — in and out of the water.

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TO COVER	ASK YOUR INSURANCE AGENT ABOUT
Boats under 26 feet, including hybrids and electric vessels	Boat Insurance
Boats 26 feet or longer, including hybrids and electric vessels	Yacht Insurance
Antique and classic runabout boats	Boat Insurance
Any boat or trailer, in transit	Boat Insurance or Auto Insurance (with applicable endorsements)
Any boat, in storage out of the water	Homeowners Insurance (with applicable endorsements)

#### What does boat insurance cover?

It depends on your state, your insurance company and the coverage options you choose. Standard and available options include:

- *Physical damage.* Collisions with another boat or submerged object.
- *Liability.* Bodily injury or damage to the property of others.
- *Personal property.* Including, but not limited to, clothing, stereos, security systems and cameras.
- *Towing and assistance.* Transportation of your boat to a repair facility when it's inoperable, gas delivery and roadside

To get the most complete protection for your individual needs, discuss available coverage options with your insurance agent.

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### Who does boat insurance cover / needs to be on my policy?

Your boat insurance coverage automatically applies to any operator listed on your policy, which should include anyone with access or permission to navigate your vessel.

Your policy may offer some protection for licensed operators not listed on your policy who you occasionally allow to use your vessel, such as:

- Extended family (visiting grandparent, parent, aunt/uncle, niece/nephew)
- Friends (sharing shifts on a trip, borrowing while own boat is broken down)
- Boyfriend/Girlfriend (who doesn't live with you)
- Marina or maintenance personnel

Check with [your insurance agent](#) to learn more about who needs to be included and who is covered on your policy.

### What should I consider when purchasing boat insurance?

Before you purchase a boat or other marine policy, it is a good idea to talk to [an agent](#) who can help determine your insurance needs and explain your coverage options. Things to consider and discuss with your agent include:

- What are the basic coverages, if any, required in my state or by my lender (if vessel is financed)?
- Will I be able to afford to pay my deductible and expenses above my policy limits in the event of a loss?
- How much would it cost to replace or repair my vessel, its furniture, fixtures and electronic equipment in the event of a loss.
- Do I frequently take people out on my boat?
- Do I rely on my boat for transportation or to run a business?
- Do I have special features on my boat that might need extra protection?
- Where do I store my boat when it's not in use?
- How do I transport my boat?
- Do I ever/plan to use my boat in international waters?
- Do I qualify for any discounts on my premium?

Once you create a policy, it is important to review your coverage needs with [your insurance agent](#) on an annual basis, or whenever there is a major change in the status of your boat or its use (e.g. you renovate your boat or change its storage location), to ensure your policy remains adequate for your needs and budget.

### Why should I choose Travelers for boat insurance?

Choosing a boat or any marine insurance policy that fits your needs starts with choosing the right insurance company.

Travelers has been an insurance leader, committed to keeping pace with the ever-changing needs of our customers, for over 160 years. As one of the nation's largest casualty companies, we offer a variety of competitive policy options and packages to ensure you get the right coverage at the right price. [Our highly-qualified agents](#) are available to help you create a policy that fits your needs and budget.

We also understand that having insurance is about more than just protecting your vessel. It is about making the process after any incident as simple and stress-free as possible. We're here to support our customers when the unexpected occurs — with fast, efficient claim services and marine insurance specialists available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### How do I get a boat insurance quote?

Getting a boat insurance quote from Travelers is easy. Just [contact one of our agents](#) or use our [online quoting tool](#) to start creating a policy that offers the protection you need at a price you can afford.

### How does the location where I use or store my boat affect my policy or premium?

Many factors affect your cost for boat insurance — among them are the state in which you store and dock your boat, as well as the "navigation territory," or the waters in which you use your boat.

If you store or dock your boat in a high-risk area that is more prone to floods, earthquakes or other weather events, your policy premium may be higher. Certain states or marinas may also require you to carry specific coverages and limits, which could affect your premium price. Where you use your boat matters, too. For instance, boats used inland typically have a lower rate than boats used on coastal waters.

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**Do I need to insure my boat while it's in storage of in the off-season when I am not using it?**

A boat is a major investment, and one that should be protected year-round. Fire, theft, weather and natural disasters can damage your boat anytime, anywhere. Without adequate coverage, your boat remains exposed to these threats all year long. Your agent can help you determine which policy options best fit your needs and budget.

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**Will my policy automatically renew, or do I have to reapply for coverage?**

It depends. Most boat policies renew automatically each year/every six months. We will notify you about any policy or premium changes in advance.

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It is important to review your coverage needs with your insurance agent on an annual basis, or whenever there is a major change in the status of your boat or the personal belongings you keep on it. This will help ensure your policy remains adequate for your needs and budget.

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**How and when can I change coverage and/or limits on my current policy?**

You can update your coverage option and policies limits anytime — online at [MyTravelers.com](https://www.travelers.com) or by speaking to your agent. Note that making changes to your policy can affect your premium. We will notify you and adjust your payment plan accordingly to reflect these changes once your policy is updated.

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Remember: it is important to review your coverage needs with your insurance agent on an annual basis, or whenever there is a major change in the status of your boat or the personal belongings you keep on it. This will help ensure your policy remains adequate for your needs and budget.

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**What is Umbrella insurance, and how does it apply to my boat policy?**

Umbrella insurance is a separate, personal liability policy that kicks in to cover costs where your boat insurance leaves off.

The cost of damages for which you may be personally responsible after a serious incident involving your vessel can quickly add up to exceed the limits on your policy. Umbrella insurance provides extra protection in these cases, and is a valuable addition to any insurance portfolio, particularly if you have many assets to protect. Talk to your agent to see if an umbrella policy is right for you.

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*Embed or link to IDM 1: Understanding Umbrella Insurance*

## PREMIUM PRICING & DISCOUNTS

### What discounts are available, and how can I add them to my policy?

You may be eligible for discounts based on factors like:

- Your level of boating education
- Your boat's safety and security features
- Your boat is a hybrid or electric
- You insure more than one boat with Travelers
- You have another policy, such as auto, homeowners, renters, condo or umbrella insurance, with Travelers
- [How and when you pay your premium](#)

Ask [your agent](#) about these and other incentives to ensure you are getting all discounts for which you are eligible.

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### Can I get a discount if I have more than one policy with Travelers?

In most cases, yes. Buying your auto, homeowners, condo, renters or umbrella insurance together with your homeowners coverage can save you up to XX% on your policy premium. Ask [your agent](#) about our [Multi-Policy Discount](#).

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### Can I get a discount if I insure more than one car with Travelers?

In most cases, yes. Insuring two or more vessels with Travelers can save you up to XX% on your auto insurance policy. Ask [your agent](#) for more information about this and [other discounts](#) for which you may be eligible.

Commented [KL22]: Added this FAQ because it seemed relevant and said this on the website. Remove if deemed not to be relevant, or untrue.

### I have a security and safety features installed on my boat or its storage location. Can I get a discount?

In many cases, having smoke detectors, interior sprinkler systems or other security and safety devices installed on your boat or where you store it will qualify you for savings. Ask [your agent](#) for more information about this and [other discounts](#) for which you may be eligible.

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### What is Travelers Flexible Pricing Program for boat insurance?

With Travelers Flexible Pricing Program, you get to choose whether to insure your vessel for the "agreed value" or "actual cash value." *Agreed value* covers the cost of most partial losses, including damage to your vessel, its furniture, fixtures or electronic equipment, at the replacement cost before depreciation, and comes with a higher premium price tag. *Actual cash value* covers the same costs, but at the depreciated value, and earns you a substantial savings on your premium.

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Commented [KL26]: <https://www.travelers.com/personal-insurance/boat-yacht-insurance/boat-yacht-insurance-discounts.aspx>

### What is a deductible, and how does it affect my boat insurance premium?

A deductible is the amount of money you must pay out of your own pocket before your boat insurance kicks in. Deductibles only apply to certain coverages, and typically range from \$100 to \$1,000. Generally speaking, the higher your deductible, the lower your premium.

To keep monthly premiums low, boat owners and operators often opt for higher deductibles. But it is important to choose a deductible you can afford in the event of a loss. [Contact your agent](#) for more information about the deductible options available to you.

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### What is a policy limit of liability, and how does it affect my boat insurance premium?

A policy limit (or "limit of liability") is the maximum amount your insurance company will pay for any claim covered under your policy. Policy limits are often comprised of two dollar amounts — for example, \$10,000/\$50,000. The first amount (\$10,000) would be the per person policy limit, while the second amount (\$50,000) is the total limit.

Commented [KL28]: Added this as counterpoint to FAQ above. A similar FAQ appears in the next "Coverage & Limits" section. I think both are important.

To keep monthly premiums low, boat owners and operators often opt for lower policy limits. But it is important to choose a liability limit you can afford in the event of a loss. Remember: you will be responsible to pay accident-related expenses above your policy limits. [Contact your agent](#) for more information about your policy limits and options.

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## COVERAGE & LIMITS

### What is physical damage coverage, and do I need it? If so, how much?

Physical damage coverage provides protection if your boat collides with another vessel or submerged object, such as a rock. It is included in most boat and other marine policies.

Discuss your physical damage coverage needs with [your agent](#). Consider what it would cost to repair or replace your vessel when choosing your deductibles and policy limits. If you finance your vessel, your lender may require specific coverage options and limits, too. Remember: you will be responsible to cover your deductible, as well any related costs above this limit.

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### What is personal property coverage, and do I need it? If so, how much?

Personal property damage coverage provides protection for items on your boat, including clothing, stereo equipment and other personal belongings. It is included in most boat and other marine policies.

Discuss your personal property coverage needs with [your agent](#). Consider the items you and your guests often bring aboard your vessel and how important it is to protect them when choosing your policy deductibles and limits.

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### What is towing and assistance coverage, and do I need it? If so, how much?

Towing and assistance coverage pays the cost to transport your boat to a repair facility in the event it is inoperable, and can also cover gas delivery and "boatside" assistance if you are stranded. It is included in most boat and other marine policies.

Discuss your towing and assistance coverage needs with [your agent](#) to ensure you have adequate protection.

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### What is liability coverage, and do I need it? If so, how much?

Liability coverage helps protect your assets and financial well-being if you are found legally responsible for causing property damage or injury to other people while operating your vessel. In most cases, it includes coverage for bodily injury, property damage, medical payments and legal expenses. It is included in most boat and other marine policies.

Carrying liability insurance is a smart financial decision. Consider your risk tolerance and financial circumstances when choosing the level of protection that's right for you – then discuss your liability coverage needs, options, deductible and policy limits with [your agent](#).

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### Is my boat covered if it's damaged during transport?

It depends on where and how you are transporting your vessel.

Overland Transportation, which is typically included on marine policies, covers physical damage that occurs while your vessel is being loaded, unloaded or transported on its trailer within a 500-mile radius of your home port or storage yard. This protection is extended to dinghies on yacht policies, too.

Your boat, yacht or dinghy, however, is not covered while being transported as waterborne cargo, including loading and unloading.

### Is my boat covered while it's docked or out of the water?

In most cases, yes. The typical boat insurance policy covers your boat when it is being docked (in the water) or is not in use (out of the water).

### Is the trailer I use to tow my boat covered?

It depends. If you have the applicable endorsements on your boat or auto insurance policies, the trailer you use to tow your boat may be protected. [Your agent](#) can help you determine which policies and options are best to insure your trailer.

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### Does my policy cover the items I store on my boat, or just the vessel?

In most cases, both. Boat policies typically include limited coverage for damage or loss of auxiliary equipment and personal property stored and used on your boat, as well as to the vessel itself.

### Am I covered if someone gets injured on my boat?

Liability coverage, which is included in most boat and other marine policies, provides protection if you are found legally responsible for causing injury to another person while operating your boat.

**Commented [KL35]:** Are other scenarios covered by liability coverage or otherwise (e.g. someone falls off your boat, slips and falls on your boat while it is docked, etc.)? If so, might want to add explanation of those scenarios here as well.

### Does my boat policy cover non-accident related damage or loss (e.g. from theft, fire, natural disasters or weather events)?

In most cases, yes. A typical boat insurance policy includes coverage for damage or loss due to theft, fire, natural disasters and weather events. Additional protections may also be available. Your agent can help you determine which policy options best fit your needs and budget.

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### What are deductibles and policy limits of liability, and how should I choose them?

A deductible is the amount of money you must pay out of your own pocket before your boat insurance kicks in, and typically ranges from \$100 to \$1,000.

**Commented [KL37]:** Added to achieve parity with AUTO/HOMEOWNERS FAQs

A policy limit (or "limit of liability") is the maximum amount your insurance company will pay for any claim covered under your policy. Policy limits are often comprised of two dollar amounts — for example, \$10,000/\$50,000. The first amount (\$10,000) would be the per person or per incident policy limit, while the second amount (\$50,000) is the total limit.

Long answer here, I know. But I think this is one of the trickiest, least understood thing among consumers so it's important to have the clear, comprehensive explanation.

Here's one example of how deductibles and policy limits work. Let's say your boat collides with a submerged rock, you have a policy limit of up to \$10,000 and your deductible is \$1,000. If the cost to repair your boat is \$500, you will pay the entire \$500 since it is less than your deductible. If the cost to repair your boat is \$8,000, you will pay your deductible of \$1,000 and your insurer will pay the remaining \$7,000. If the cost to repair your boat is \$12,000, you will pay \$3,000 (your deductible, plus the \$2,000 above your policy limit) and your insurer will pay \$9,000.

To keep monthly premiums low, boat owners and operators often opt for higher deductibles and lower policy limits. But if you can't pay your deductible or accident-related expenses above and beyond your policy limits, you may find yourself in financial crisis. Choose wisely. Consider your risk tolerance and financial circumstances when deciding the level of protection that's right for you and your family — then work with your agent to create a policy that balances your individual needs with a premium, deductible and policy limit you can afford.

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### Do I need special coverage if I add new features to my boat?

It depends.

It is important to review your coverage needs with your insurance agent on an annual basis, or whenever you make "after-market" modifications to your vessel, to ensure your policy remains adequate for your needs and budget.

**Commented [KL39]:** Added to achieve parity with AUTO/HOME FAQs, as well as to push the "annual coverage review with agent" recommendation

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*General References*

<https://www.travelers.com/claims/individuals/boat-insurance-claims.aspx>

<http://www.boatingmag.com/buying-boat-insurance#page-6>

<https://www.travelers.com/personal-insurance/boat-yacht-insurance/boat-insurance-coverage.aspx>

<http://www.bankrate.com/finance/insurance/6-things-know-boat-insurance-1.aspx>