



Houseboating Handbook

Life Jackets

We provide 12 adult life jackets aboard each houseboat. If you require smaller jackets for children aboard, please request jackets from our office upon check in. In addition all children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket while the houseboat is under way. There is a large fine if you are stopped by law enforcement on the lake for failing to do so. Small children should be escorted on an off the boat at all times.

Starting your Engines and Driving the Houseboat

Be sure the outdrives are down and locked. Look for the possibility of swimmers or other boats around the rear of your houseboat before starting the engine. Always have a lookout in the rear of the vessel before shifting into gear or reverse. Make sure you allow the engines to warm up to 175 degrees before attempting to put into gear.

NEVER EXCEED 2500 RPM IN REVERSE. Forward running speed is from 2200 to 2600 RPM.

Proceed slowly at wakeless speed (idle setting on your throttles) in harbor areas, around other boats, or in narrow canyons. The houseboat weighs approximately 11 tons and requires a large area to come to a stop. Reverse gear is its only brake.

Once in open water, get a "feel" of your houseboat. Make some turns – experiment on stopping distances, then set throttles to cruising speed and set course for your destination on the Lake.

The engines on our 60 foot and 67 foot houseboats are a 4 cylinder, 130 hp OMC, and the generators are 12.5kw . The Engines on our 72, 75 foot and 85 foot houseboats are Mercury 6 cylinder fuel injected. Both operate on regular fuel only.

Each houseboat is equipped with a VHF Marine radio to notify the Marina should such an incident occur, or call on your cell phone 800-843-9218.

If the houseboat is being moved around by wind or current, and you feel loss of control, do not be afraid to use the throttle and "power out" of the situation.

When making a sharp turn or U turn, move the steering wheel in the direction you are turning before putting the boat in gear. After traveling forward, put the houseboat in neutral & turn the steering wheel quickly in the opposite direction. Place the shift lever in reverse. Continue this process until the turn is made. The houseboat steers from the rear and forward motion will push the boat in the desired direction. Reverse motion will pull the houseboat in the desired direction.

The houseboat is equipped with hydraulic steering and takes approximately 5 turns from the hard left to go to hard right. If making a turn near an obstacle, ALWAYS HAVE ONE PERSON AT THE BACK (STERN) OF THE HOUSEBOAT & ONE PERSON AT THE FRONT (BOW) OF THE HOUSEBOAT TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ASSISTANCE. If the propeller is run into the sand or any debris, turn OFF the engine and check the propeller. If it is bent or damaged, call Club Nautical on the VHF radio or cell phone. Continuing to drive the houseboat with a bent or broken propeller will result in further damage to the outdrive.

Water Hazards

Always be on the lookout for logs and debris in the water. If a collision appears unavoidable, place the shift lever in neutral, stop the engines and lift the Outdrive so as to not damage the propeller and coast past debris.

Storms

Fortunately most storms are of short duration resulting from small local storms which move through the area very fast. Motor slowly into the wind toward a sheltered bank using just enough power to control the vessel. Tie the boat up securely and wait for the storm to subside.

Remain calm and contact us for any assistance. Stay clear of rocky beaches during storms to prevent hull damage. Watch for clouds, and if you see a squall coming, the weather report can be heard hourly on local radio. Use your own discretion. Storms can come up very quickly, and it would be wise to move the houseboat to a sheltered location on shore.

Remember to load as much of your weight as possible at the rear of the houseboat so that the bow will ride higher in the water.

Beaching and Mooring your Houseboat

In order to beach your houseboat properly, please follow these procedures:

Choose a spot that is well protected from wind and waves and no sharp rocks that may damage the hull. The water level at the stern of your boat should be deep enough so as not to endanger the propeller. A trial run reasonably close to shore will allow you to check for proper depth and beach condition.

After you have selected your beach, approach the shore at a slow speed. Have your

crew standing on the front deck with stern ropes and beaching stakes in hand ready to secure the boat once your bow touches the shore.

When your bow touches the beach, leave the motor idling in forward gear. This will hold the boat to the beach while your crew is securing the ropes. If a breeze or wave washes the boat sideways, use more throttle to straighten the boat until you can secure it.

The crew should now secure the two stern ropes to the stakes at a 45 degree angle from the stern of the boat to the beaching stake. Be sure that the ropes are tied securely around the stakes and tie ropes as low to the ground as possible to prevent the stakes from pulling out.

After you have secured the boat, turn ignition OFF, turn shift power switch OFF and remove the keys from the ignition and place them on the dash. This will ensure that the keys are not broken off in the ignition or left in the "ON" position overnight.

NOTE: MOVING THE SHIFT CONTROL LEVER WITH THE ENGINE NOT RUNNING COULD CAUSE DAMAGE.

PLEASE DO NOT PERMIT CHILDREN TO PRETEND THEY ARE "DRIVING THE BOAT".

Leaving the Beach:

Always check for swimmers. Follow engine starting procedures mentioned earlier. Have someone at the helm with engine running. Keep the engine in forward gear as your crew unties stern ropes and pulls out beaching stakes. Secure all ropes and equipment properly on the boat. Place shift control into reverse gear. Slight swinging of the stern from side to side may be necessary to release the boat from shore.

DO NOT EXCEED MORE THAN 2500 RPM IN REVERSE!!

NOTE: Always back your boat at least five (5) boat lengths from the shore before changing gears to forward. If you are too close to shore when changing directions, the stern could swing into the shore and damage the propeller.

Propane System

The propane equipment on the stern of the houseboat and the Bar B Q grill is an area of importance. It is important that all houseboat guests are aware of the location of the

propane tanks aboard the houseboat and know how to shut them off. Prior to refueling at any location, make sure that the propane tanks are turned OFF and all doors and windows are closed. Allow ample time for all fumes to dissipate before re opening propane lines and lighting propane equipment.

If the characteristic odor of gasoline or propane fumes is detected at any time for an unreasonable length of time, make certain immediate action is taken to eliminate any open flame within the area. Shut OFF the supply source. Occasionally a propane odor exists momentarily as pilots or burners are turned on. If the odor persists, shut OFF the source.

Battery System

All houseboats have a 12 volt battery system for starting the engines and providing accessory power for the lighting system and lake water pump. The inboard engines provide recharging capability, however, care should be observed not to overuse the 12 volt system. Accessories should be turned OFF when not in use. Your cabin lights and accessories are powered by both 12 volt batteries and a 110 volt generator. When the generator is operating, and the battery charger breaker is ON, the boat battery is being charged, which operates lights, stereo, VHF radio, etc.

Refrigeration System

All of our houseboats are equipped with home style both side by side and standard refrigerators.

Also, a helpful hint is when you are loading your refrigerators do not put warm items in them. This will rapidly bring down the inside temperature of any refrigerator and it can take as long as 24 hours to bring the temperature back down inside.

Remember the more items in your refrigerator the longer it will stay cold. Also remember the more you open the door the warmer the refrigerator will get.

Electrical Services

Except for the Bar B Q, and some stoves which are propane, our houseboats are equipped with all electrical appliances, water heater, microwave, air conditioner, heater and refrigerator, all of which run off the generator.

All of appliances are electrical and run off the generator. If you turn off the generator they will continue to run for approximately 4 hours and then you will need to run the generator again to recharge the batteries.

The air conditioning and heating system on the houseboat is a heat pump, similar to many household systems. The operation of the air conditioning & heating system is described in the operations manual and will be explained in detail during your orientation.

Toilet

The toilets on the 60 foot, 67 foot and 72 foot houseboats are easy to operate but the procedures must be followed carefully. The vessel is equipped with a 300 gallon holding tank. Depress the flush button to flush the toilet. **HOLD IT DOWN FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 SECONDS.** . The unit actually grinds the waste prior to entering the holding tank, like a garbage disposal.

Our 75 foot houseboats are equipped with a single electronic button that only needs to be depressed once and the electronics will take care of the rest. Our 85 foot houseboat has a drop system that is the same as a RV, therefore it is important to never put anything into the toilet except human waste and small amounts of single ply biodegradable toilet paper supplied of the houseboat.

No Tampons, condoms, Q-tips, Dental Floss etc.

Also important is to flush long enough to clear the toilet of all materials. Any other type of paper or foreign object will/may result in a clogged toilet and or holding tank. Charges will apply if this happens. Lake water is used for the operation of your toilet. Do not use any cleaning agent in the toilet. Do not pour or discard any chemical into the toilet. **THIS CAN CAUSE A DANGEROUS CHEMICAL REACTION.**

Waterslide

Your houseboat has a water slide that can provide hours of fun and enjoyment. For your safety do not use the water slide when the houseboat is in operation or moving or at any dock or marina. **CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES WHEN USING THE WATER SLIDE. ENGINES AND GENERATOR MUST BE TURNED OFF WHEN SWIMMING OR USING THE WATER SLIDE.**

NOTE: AVOID SERIOUS INJURY !!

ENGINES AND GENERATOR MUST BE TURNED OFF WHILE SWIMMING OR WADING AROUND HOUSEBOATS OR OTHER BOATS.

Bedtime Checklist

- » Turn OFF the stereo
- » Turn OFF the VHF Radio/optional
- » Check to be sure the running lights and engine compartment blower switches are turned OFF Check upper helm to make sure all switches are OFF.
- » Remove the key from the ignition & place on the dash.
- » Walk from the front to the back of the boat. Check to make sure all lights are turned OFF.
- » Double check your mooring lines, they should be taught and secure, and properly tied to their stakes. Make sure the stakes are secure.

The Don'ts

We do not recommend towing watercraft with your houseboat , If you do tie any watercraft to your houseboat it is done at your risk. Do not tie watercraft to the railings of the houseboat. Our staff can instruct you on the proper cleat tying of small craft to the houseboat.

Loud music and offensive noise is NOT PERMITTED Please be courteous to other boaters.

Driving a houseboat while intoxicated is illegal and is enforced. DON'T DRINK & DRIVE Do not operate your houseboat after dark. This is very dangerous and may result in the loss of your rental.

The engine compartment is off limits to our guests.

Houseboat races and tying houseboats together is not permitted.

Water bombs or balloons are STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON ANY Lake Havasu Houseboat.

Firearms and fireworks are PROHIBITED on any Lake Havasu Houseboat.

Returning your Houseboat

After a great vacation on Lake Havasu you return your Houseboat to the docks .Houseboats are due back by 2:00 PM on your last day. (12:00 noon if your rental falls in our Spring Break period, 3/1 though 4/15) Contact our boat manager one hour before your arrival so we can meet you on the dock. That means you should have your boat cleaned up as you would your home, with your trash and personal belongings off the boat. There is a charge for houseboats that are returned dirty or with unwashed dishes. This includes the inside and outside of the houseboat. (we will handle the window cleaning and scrubbing the outside of the boat)

You must be back at the Resort by your designated return time or you may lose your deposit PLUS a prorated charge to compensate the next customer.

Please bring all of your trash back to the docks and dispose of it properly in the designated areas. Never throw any trash or food into the water. Your assistance in this effort to keep the lake beautiful will make the area better for the next person to visit and better for you the next time you come.

After your boat is docked and cleared out, it will be checked off by a dock attendant and you will receive a copy of your check in sheet. We will fuel, inspect your boat, and refund your deposit by check in the mail within 14 days.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING

