

REQUIREMENT TO RENT A BOAT STARTING THIS YEAR IN MINNESOTA

A Minnesota [Watercraft Operator's Permit](#) is required for specific age groups to legally drive a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC). The permit is good for life, costs a one-time fee of roughly \$34.95, and is earned by taking an approved online boater safety course and passing an exam. [[1](#), [2](#)]

Minnesota phases this requirement in by birth year. Keep these deadlines in mind: []

- **Born on or after July 1, 2000:** Permit is required.
- **Born on or after July 1, 1996:** Permit required (effective July 1, 2027).
- **Born on or after July 1, 1987:** Permit required (effective July 1, 2028). []

How to Get Your Permit

1. **Choose an Approved Provider:** You can take the state-approved education course and exam entirely online through platforms like [BoaterExam](#) or [Boat-ed](#). [[1](#), [2](#)]
1. **Complete the Course:** Study the boater safety modules and pass the final exam (courses typically take 3 to 4 hours). [[1](#)]
2. **Print Temporary Proof:** Once you pass, you can immediately print a temporary certificate to hit the water while your permanent card is mailed to you within a few weeks. [[1](#)]

Important Rules for Youth & Rentals

- **Under 12:** Cannot drive a PWC or any motorboat with a motor over 75 HP. For less than 75 HP, they must be accompanied by someone 21 or older. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]
- **Rental Restrictions:** No one under age 18 may rent a motorboat or PWC in Minnesota. Anyone 18 or older looking to rent must possess a valid watercraft operator's permit.