

Other sailing equipment you might need...

Most people who sail regularly end up with a lot of bits in pieces in their sailing gear collection. This is a short list of some of the more common items.

A Sailing Knife

Most sailors carry a folding knife of some sort. Its important to get one that's not going to rust and that doesn't have a sharp point you can impale yourself on if the boat bounces at the wrong moment. Ideally the knife will have a point to attach a lanyard to (so you can attach the knife to you) and maybe a marlin style spike for unpicking knots. Swiss Army style penknives are not ideal for use on boats, they generally have a pointed blade and are difficult to open when you have gloves on or cold soggy fingers.

A Good Watch

If racing you will need a good watch. Good doesn't mean expensive. It should be waterproof and easy to use if you are wearing gloves. Ideally the watch will have a count down feature so that you can time you approach to the start line. Generally digital watches are easier to use afloat rather than analogue ones. The watch needs to be either backlit or luminous to be visible in the dark.

A Multi-Tool

A good multi tool is useful for undoing shackles and generally fixing things that break. As with the penknife you need to pick one that's not going to rust.

Gaffer Tape

Never go afloat without a good roll of tape in your bag. Electrical insulating tape is a good substitute.

String. A couple of metres of 1mm string in your pocket is also really useful.

A Head Torch

If you get a head torch make sure it has a red as well as white light. You will need to use the red light after dark to protect other peoples night vision.

A Bag to Put it all in!

Watertight barrel style bags that roll down at the opening to seal are very good they come in various sizes. Boats can be wet places and being able to keep at least some of your stuff dry is a great advantage. Most of the barrel bags will also fold down flat for easy storage which is a great advantage on a cramped small boat - much better for sailing than rigid suitcases which just get in the way on a boat.