

Topic:

Safety Equipment

QC-1206

Resource:

[Recommended
Safety
Equipment](#)

Basics: Your choice of safety equipment depends on the style of paddling you do. River runners have different choices than coastal paddlers. Kayakers have different needs than canoeists. Basically everyone needs a PFD and should consider a spare paddle and extra clothing, along with various elements of rescue, communication and first aid equipment. The key is to know how to use it and practice frequently so you are quick, efficient and don't make mistakes.

Question: *Other than PFD, what gear should a coastal kayaker have?*

Answer: We recommend a spare paddle for every two in your group, with individual bilge pumps, paddle floats and rescue slings. Consider a boat repair kit stocked for your craft, a good first-aid kit and spare clothing including an oversize windbreaker to fit over a PFD, signal equipment, and a marine radio.

Question: *Other than PFD, what gear should a river kayaker have?*

Answer: Riverboats are smaller so less will fit behind the paddler around the floatation bags and shared among the group. Spare paddles, throw ropes, quick tows, folding bail-sack, First-Aid kit and spare clothing, communication equipment and food are excellent choices for the river team.

Advanced Concepts: You may want to get more information on the following:

- Can I use a marine radio on inland rivers?
- How can I stow a spare paddle in a river kayak?
- Should I carry a rescue sling in my river or touring canoe?
- What first aid training should a river runner have?
- Where and how is a cell-phone helpful safety equipment?

For more information contact

Sea Kayaking Skills and Adventures

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