

**Getting out on the water can be great fun. Across the Environment Agency Anglian Waterways there are lots of rivers where you can get started.**

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### First things first

Buy a boat wisely. Do your research to understand what type of boating experience you want. Try renting a boat for a week or two to understand how everything works.

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### Moorings (where to keep your boat)

Which comes first – the mooring or the boat? Check the availability of moorings at your preferred locations before you buy. There may be a waiting list or you may be able to reserve a berth in advance. If you keep your boat at home check for your nearest slipway or access point. If you visit different waterways ensure you 'Clean, Check, Dry' to prevent transmission of non-native or invasive species.

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### What Waterways do you want to explore?

Canals and rivers can have different characteristics and can significantly affect the type of boat you buy. Lock widths can often be too narrow for many cruisers, particularly on the canals. The Anglian Waterways are all rivers.

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### So you have your boat and mooring – what next?

There are similar requirements for boat ownership as there are to having a car. Insurance, Boat Safety Scheme Certification, which is the same principle as a MoT and Boat Registration to Road Tax.

### Boat Registration

The annual boat registration you require will depend on the waterway you are using. If you are moored on one of our navigations, even on private land or in a marina and even if you do not navigate your boat, you still must have the appropriate boat registration.

Please check our website [www.visitanglianwaterways.org](http://www.visitanglianwaterways.org) for the registration you need.

Short term (visitor) registrations (licences) are also available from 1 day upwards. So even if it's a day cruise, you need a valid registration.

We regularly carry out registration enforcement checks. If you are found without a valid registration we may take further enforcement action; you could end up with a fine up to £1,000 for each offence, a criminal record and the loss of your mooring.

### Environment Agency Boat Registration

**Enquiries** 03708 506506

**Renewal** 0330 159 1983

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/anglian-waterways-boat-registration-and-application-forms](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anglian-waterways-boat-registration-and-application-forms)

## Boat Safety Scheme Certification

Boat Safety Scheme Certification (BSSC) is normally valid for four years. This is an independent safety inspection carried out by a qualified engineer. BSSC are held electronically. If your boat is less than 4 years old you will have a Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) Declaration of Conformity. Further information can be found on our BSS and Insurance leaflet and the Boat Safety Scheme website [www.boatsafetyscheme.org](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org)

## Boat Insurance

This is an essential requirement to be able to register your boat with the Environment Agency and to cover you for any incidents that may occur. You will need to have third party insurance, to at least £1 million.

## Navigation Key

This is used to unlock access to locks, slipways and chemical (Elsan) toilet disposal amongst other things at EA sites. Keys can be purchased from some marinas, our manned lock sites, Northampton Marina, our Waterways Agents, River Inspectors and our National Customer Contact Centre by calling **03708 506 506**.



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## Useful Contacts and Information

### Environment Agency

**Boat Registration** 03708 506 506

[boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Canal and River Trust

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/getting-afloat](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/getting-afloat)



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