

# ONBOARD FLAG ETIQUETTE

- United States Ensign - The U.S. national ensign, sometimes called "50-star" or "Old Glory," is the proper and preferred flag for all U.S. vessels. Your boat should wear it from 0800 until sunset, and when you enter or leave port during daylight or at night, weather and rig permitting. While in port, if you leave your boat and will not return before sunset, lower and stow the national ensign before you go.
- The U.S. Power Squadron suggests the following sequence to provide the most colorful display for commonly available sets of 40 flags (the U.S. Navy uses a 65-flag set):



- Starting from forward: AB2, UJ1, KE3, GH6, IV5, FL4, DM7, PO Third Repeater, RN First Repeater, ST Zero, CX9, WQ8, ZY Second Repeater.

- Repeat this sequence as many times as needed to extend your display from the waterline at the bow to the waterline at the stern and running over the masthead.
- If you're feeling particularly celebratory, it is customary to weight the forward end with a champagne bottle. Other items may of course be used, but we thought you'd like to know about the top end of flag display etiquette.

- Don't forget to hoist the Ensign at the stern flag staff. The Union Jack at the bow staff makes a complete display.
- Defender's full dress string will cover approximately 42 feet. Multiple sets may be required to properly dress your boat. Champagne not included.

