

Drone Pilot Pre-Flight Checklist

Whether you're a novice or experienced drone pilot, keeping safety first will help you get the most from your drone flights. Use this pre-flight checklist whenever you begin a mission.

Before You Take Off

- **Check the current weather and windspeed conditions.**
Pro tip: Consider using a pilot weather app like NOAA Aviation Live Sky Weather.
- **Make sure your SD is card loaded and formatted.**
Pro tip: Make sure your SD card meets UHS speed class 3 (U3) and UHS video speed class 30 standards.
- **Check your drone and controller's battery strength.**
Pro tip: Always return your drone to home the moment you get a low battery warning.
- **Check your controller's signal strength.**
Pro tip: Position the antennas on your controller for maximum range. Consult your drone's documentation for more info.
- **Make sure your lens cover and gimbal lock are removed.**
Pro tip: ND filters can help enhance your shots and they work as good lens protectors.

When You Take Off

- **Check your drone's satellite strength.**
Pro tip: Drones use GPS signals to stabilize themselves in flight. Be extremely careful if a lack of GPS signals occurs during flight (your drone may alert that you are in atti-mode or attitude mode).
- **Wait for your home point and return to home settings to lock in.**
Pro tip: Consider using a launch pad and let your drone hover for a few seconds after take-off to lock in your home settings into position.
- **Double check your surroundings for obstacles.**
Pro tip: Consider flying with a visual observer or keep your drone in your line of sight if you are the sole pilot.

For More Information

For detailed flight and safety information from the FAA, see: [faa.gov/uas](https://www.faa.gov/uas)



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Wesley Hall Digital, LLC

web: bigwes.com / email: wesley@bigwes.com / phone: 678-820-9373