

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST FOR NEW UAV PILOTS



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Flight Environment

- ✓ How high are you flying?
- ✓ Are you flying near an airport, and do you need to let Air Traffic Control know of your flight plan?
- ✓ Do you have permission from the property owner if you're flying over private land?
- ✓ Have you surveyed your surroundings, looking for people, animals, buildings, etc.?
- ✓ Avoid inclement weather. Fly in winds under 10-15 mph (or 15-25 kph). Avoid precipitation.

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Equipment

- ✓ Have you inspected your hardware for any loose or damaged wiring, for cracks, for damaged connections, etc.?
- ✓ Have you cleaned the lenses of your camera, your monitor, your FPV goggles, etc.?
- ✓ Are your batteries fully charged and seated/secured properly?
- ✓ Is your transmitter calibrated, showing the right range and centering for all sticks? Is the right model and mode selected, and are there any other calibrations you need to do?

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Powering Up

- ✓ Are you taking off from a safe, level location, free of any metal like the roof of your car?
- ✓ If you're flying FPV, turn on your ground station, video receiver, goggles, etc.
- ✓ Turn on your camera.
- ✓ Put your transmitter trim in a neutral position and make sure your controls move freely—make sure your throttle is at zero.
- ✓ Turn on your transmitter.

Powering Up

- ✓ Connect your battery and power up your airframe.
- ✓ Verify your LED indicators
- ✓ If flying FPV, check your video feed
- ✓ Ensure there are no frequency conflicts.
- ✓ Run any other pre-flight checks as recommended by your specific unmanned aerial system.
- ✓ Stand clear and arm your radio controller.

Taking Off

- ✓ Position the aircraft nose forward (facing away from you).
- ✓ Slowly increase your throttle to take off.
- ✓ Hover at eye level for 10-15 seconds.
- ✓ Yaw left and right as you listen for any abnormalities—anything that sounds loose, and weird vibrations, etc.
- ✓ Fly safe! Keep a direct line-of-sight and use a spotter if necessary.
- ✓ Monitor your battery usage and start returning to your landing zone with 25% battery remaining.