



# TIPS ON HOW TO BUY BOATS



# TIPS ON HOW TO BUY A BOAT

## 1 CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOAT.

- Aluminium or Fibreglass
- Tiller Steer or Centre or Side Console
- Runabout
- Ski / Wake Boat
- PWC
- Kayak

Narrow your choices to a short list of boat categories and make short lists of features that you require, features that you would like, and features that you want to stay away from.

## 2 CHOOSE THE RIGHT MOTOR.

Lack of horsepower in the boat engine is often cited as the reason a boat owner becomes dissatisfied with his or her new boat. People often oversimplify the choice of which engine to get by asking how fast the boat will go, but it's important to understand that more horsepower may be far more useful than speed. More horsepower means better handling at midrange speeds, better capabilities in rough water, and better water sports functionality. In general, you'll want to choose an engine with horsepower that is as close to the maximum horsepower the boat is rated for.

## 3 CONSIDER WARRANTIES.

Warranties are valuable, and an important factor that should influence your decision. Some warranties are transferable, which may become a selling point if you decide to sell your boat. Find out what the warranty includes (engine, hull, components, accessories, service, etc.) and find out about the service that you will receive if something fails.

## 4 KEEP A LOG.

Take notes, or record your reactions on a recording device. Involve your family with the decision and listen to their likes and dislikes about each boat. No two boats are exactly the same - but there exists a perfect boat for you and yours. Use your short list of features and brands to quantify your observations.

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## WHEN ARE YOU READY?

There is no correct amount of time that it should take to shop for a boat. For some, one afternoon is all that they need. It takes others longer. The right time for you to buy a boat is when you are ready.

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## THE COST OF OWNERSHIP.

For most, the cost of owning a boat is nothing compared to the benefits derived from owning and using your own boat. Nonetheless, be sure you understand that the cost of owning a boat includes more than just the fiberglass.

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## LEARNING TO USE YOUR NEW BOAT.

Boating is not difficult, but driving a boat, like anything else, is a skill. If you have not already, sign up for boaters education courses where you can learn the rules of the water. The best tip here is just to take it slow and practice.

# BENEFITS OF BOATING



**Reduces stress**



**Gives you time as a family**



**Improves your quality of life**



**Helps you bond with friends**



**Rewarding activity**



**It's easy to learn**



**Gets you out in nature and the fresh air**

## BOATING IS FUN!