

Towing And Trailering

A trailer can add a new dimension to the sense of freedom associated with boating. Once you have a trailer, you're pretty much free to boat anywhere you decide, lakes, rivers, or inlets. A trailer allows you to explore your area, and is also the most affordable way to store your boat.

Starting out

If you've never owned or trailer or trailered a boat before, there are several things you should know and consider. The first thing is the towing capacity of your truck, car, or SUV. If you don't know, you can easily find the information in your owner's manual.

Normally, small cars or family sedans aren't suitable for towing, although small boats may not be a problem, if you have the proper towing equipment installed on the car. Most standard trucks or SUV's can tow boats up to 25 feet, although you'll need to check the owner's manual to be sure.

Weighing in

In your boat's owners manual, you'll find the dry weight of your boat. The dry weight is the weight of the boat without fuel or gear. Always make sure you assess your vehicle's towing capacity, and add a few hundred pounds to the dry weight to cover these types of extras.

Muscle and power

As the weight, length, and beam of a boat increases, so does the power needed to retrieve and launch it. Smaller boats may be easier for one person to handle, although larger boats will require more than one person. If you need extra help, don't be afraid to ask for it - as trailer boaters are always ready to give you a hand if you need it.

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