

Bryant 233X: Ramp Staging & Launching Checklist

Vessel: 2013 Bryant 233X | Mercruiser 350 MAG (RWC)

Hank's Marine Assistant (Bryant 233X)

2025-11-03

This process, executed in the staging area *before* approaching the ramp, ensures a safe, fast, and professional launch.

1. Staging Area Prep (The “Dry Run”)

Location: Perform these steps in the parking lot or staging area, *not* on the ramp.

- ☐ **Confirm Drain Plugs:** Final visual check that **ALL** drain plugs are **IN**.
- ☐ **Disconnect Straps (CRITICAL):**
 - ☐ Remove both **transom ratchet straps**.
 - ☐ Remove the **bow safety chain**.
 - ☐ **LEAVE the bow winch strap** connected and snug. This is now the only thing holding the boat to the trailer.
- ☐ **Load Gear:** Load coolers, bags, and all remaining gear from the F-150 into the boat.
- ☐ **Prep Lines & Fenders:**
 - ☐ Deploy fenders on the “dock side” of the boat.
 - ☐ Have bow and stern dock lines untangled and ready on cleats.
- ☐ **Lower Outdrive (CRITICAL):**
 - ☐ Use the trim switch to **lower the Bravo III outdrive** all the way down (full “in” position).
 - *Note: This is mandatory. The Raw Water Cooled engine needs the drive down to draw water immediately on startup, or the impeller will be destroyed.*
- ☐ **Power On:** Turn the main **battery switch** to the “ON” position.
- ☐ **Blower & Sniff Test (CRITICAL SAFETY STEP):**
 - ☐ Turn key to “ON” (do not start).

- ☐ Run the **engine bay blower** for at least **4-5 minutes**.
 - ☐ **Open the engine hatch and perform a “sniff test”** for any fuel fumes.
 - ☐ **Brief Engine Test (Optional, but Recommended):**
 - ☐ *After* the sniff test, start the engine for 5-10 seconds.
 - ☐ Confirm water is “peeing” from the outdrive (verifies water pump).
 - ☐ Shut engine off.
 - ☐ **Disconnect Trailer Electrical:** Unplug the **7-to-5-pin adapter** from the F-150. This prevents cold water from cracking hot trailer light bulbs.
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2. On the Ramp (The “Launch”)

This phase should be fast, quiet, and precise.

- ☐ **Communicate:** Confirm the plan with your driver/helper.
- ☐ **Back In:** Slowly back the trailer down the ramp. A good target is when the trailer fenders just start to go underwater or the boat’s stern begins to float.
- ☐ **Set Brake (CRITICAL):** Put the F-150 in **Park** and set the **parking brake firmly**.
- ☐ **Board & Start:**
 - ☐ Captain boards the boat.