

## Boat Buying Tips

- Do you have a boat yet? If not here are some tips:
  - Bigger and faster is not always the best option. Bigger boats can push bigger wakes. On a narrow lake such as Oswego Lake wakes pose serious safety and shore line hazards. Whatever boat you buy you must be aware and manage your wakes.
  - Walk around the docks and look at the boats, take a few notes.
  - Visit a few boat stores (just leave your wallet at home).
  - Check out the boating magazines such as Go Boating.
  - A great resource for good used boats is [www.boattrader.com](http://www.boattrader.com) or [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)
  - Looking for a new boat? Here are several boat dealers that our members have recommended:
    - Portland Ski Boat Center: 67219 SW Macadam Av: 503-892-9965
      - Mastercraft: High end wakeboard and ski boats.
    - Trudeau's Sea Ray: 3015 N Haydon Island Dr: 503-240-1996
      - Sea Ray: Great all around family boat and water sport boats.
    - Active Water Sports: 1224 McLoughlin Blvd. Oregon City, OR 97045, 503.650.5991.
      - Moomba: Best value in a V Drive. B52: High end v drive.
  - A bowrider model is by far the most popular style of boat on the lake.
  - Check with the Lake Corporation as to their current boat limits before buying a boat. Beams over 8' wide may not be able to fit into many of the slips and lifts. As of the writing of this letter the Lake Corp limits are:
    - Boats cannot be over 22'.
    - Boats must have a dry gross weight no greater than 3,500 lbs per manufacturer's website.
    - Boat must not have wake enhancing devices or ballast systems. If the boat does have a ballast system it must be disabled.
- Is this is your first boat? If yes here are few free tips:
  - Inboards/V-Drives are great boats for water sports but much harder to control when you are at slow speeds such as docking. If you've had limited boating experience we highly recommend that you start off buy an inboard/outboard as your first boat. These boats with outdrives make a great boat to learn on.
  - Every foot of a boat makes a big difference in how many people you can haul. Most people find an 18' boat a bit tight, a 21" boat makes a good starter.
  - A V6 engine is good and a V8 is better for water sports.
  - Fuel injected boats do not need as many tune-ups.
  - Take a hard look at the seating set-up; does it fit your life style? Go look at a lot of boats to find you ideal setting set-up.

- Covers:
  - You'll need a fitted mooring cover that snaps or has draw strings. Some "mooring covers" are more of a trailer cover that can not be secure on the water.
- Trailers:
  - If you can, get a trailer with a removable or swing tongue so the trailer will fit into a garage.
  - Trailer brakes are a good idea.
  - Dual axle trailers are great if you are going to trailer your boat.
- Wakeboarding:
  - The lake does not allow the use of ballast systems or wake enhancing devices of any kind. They can be disabled if the boat comes with one. If your boat is found with ballast or a wake enhancing device both you and your boat will be banned from the lake.
  - A wakeboard tower makes all the difference.
    - Make sure the tower fits under the bridge at Half Moon Bay.
    - How easily does the tower fold down?
    - Does the tower fold under the windshield height for storage? If not you may not be getting into a garage during the winter with your boat.
    - A few wakeboard tower vendors are Samson Sports in Camas WA and Barewest Wakeboard & Fishing Towers in Lake Oswego..
  - Try out the boat on the water. A typical wakeboard speed is between 16 mph and 22 mph. Does the boat you are looking hold a plane at those speeds? Does bow rise high into the air blocking your view (not good)?
  - A speed control system such as Perfect Pass sure is nice for the driver.
- Some "would be nice" extras to look for:
  - Docking lights.
  - Cockpit lighting.
  - Heater.
  - Tilt steering wheel.
  - Extended swim platform.
  - Lots of locking storage.
  - Built in cooler.

So have some fun and take a look at lot of boats before you buy.