

HOW TO TRAILER A BOAT



PRE-TOWING

- Never trailer a boat that exceeds towing capacity – check vehicle's owner manual for capacity information
- Double-check trailer, hitch connection, safety chains, lights, mirrors, and tire pressure
- Confirm that the winch is secure and locked
- Tighten all tie-down straps
- Secure any loose items

DURING TRANSIT

- Double (or triple) the car lengths necessary to come to a complete stop
- Leave plenty of distance between you and the vehicle in front of you
- Travel in the right lane when possible
- Change lanes with caution, remember to make wide turns
- Always safety first

RETRIEVE & LOAD BOAT BACK ON THE TRAILER

- Use both a bow and stern cleat for tending lines
- Raise the engine or sterndrive!
- All passengers should disembark
- Back the trailer deep enough to float the boat most of the way on
- Use dock lines to guide the boat onto the trailer
- Don't forget to attach the winch safety chain
- Slowly pull the boat and trailer out to an area clear of the ramp
- Reattach all tie-downs
- Check for and remove all Aquatic Nuisance Species
- Remove drain plug
- Secure all loose items

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[SafeBoatingCampaign.com](https://www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com)

HOW TO LAUNCH A BOAT



PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST



- Check the boat is properly equipped
- Ensure the boat is in good working condition
- File a float plan
- Check the weather
- Brief the passengers
- Life jackets for every passenger

LAUNCH BOAT



- Prep boat before getting into line at the ramp
- Add a tending line to bow and stern cleats
- Never remove the winch hook early - wait until trailer is submerged
- **DOUBLE CHECK** that the drain plug is in
- Physically check the ramp for slippery marine growth
- Note the angle and length of the ramp
- Use the emergency brake if putting tow vehicle in park
- If you have a helper, communicate and coordinate
- Ensure lower engine unit is deep enough in the water
- Check that water is circulating



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