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## Trailer guide covers for boat trailers

A boat is a great investment that you will want to protect into the foreseeable future. Whether it's sitting in stock or being dragged to the water for a day of fun, a boat can take a beating. Everything from UV rays and salt air to dirt, pollution and bird droppings can damage your boat and shorten its lifespan. A boat cover takes the bulk of the elements and dirt so your boat doesn't have to. A quality cover must meet a number of unique challenges. It should be able to repel rain yet remain pliable in dry conditions. It should thrive in hot and cold, resist mold and mildew, and be effective, whether on the road or sitting for months in storage, indoors or out. This guide covers the qualities and features you should look for if you are in the market for a boat cover. In addition to considerations such as size and materials, we also examine the price range and any extras you might get with a cover. Finally, we highlight some of our favorites and share what we like about them. Important considerationsFit Boat covers, like both themselves, are made in a variety of sizes. Some covers are universal to suit a wide range of boat styles. Others are more specific, designed to fit a V-hull, T-top, pontoon, or other type of boat. As such, your main consideration when buying a boat cover is to find one that suits your particular boat. Some boat covers have elastic or string around the seam that can be used to tighten the cover of the boat so that it fits more safely. Some boat owners feel that a cord is preferable to an elastic wire because it will not lose its elasticity over time. Many manufacturers and sellers offer a variety of covers to fit a wide range of boat sizes and styles. See the FAQs section below to learn how to choose the right size cover for your boat. Purpose A quality cover should be able to protect a boat from a variety of conditions and substances, including mildew, ultraviolet rays and water. At the same time, a cover must be able to breathe so that it does not catch moisture against the boat. Some boat covers are designed specifically for long-term storage, and these tend to fit more loosely. Others are more geared for long-distance trailering of your boat, and these are reinforced and fit more tightly. Some boat covers try to split the difference to be used for either storage or trailering over moderate distances. Take some time to consider how you plan to use the cover before choosing one. Construction Boat covers can be constructed from a variety of materials and held together in a few different ways. Materials include nylon, vinyl and canvas, but one of the best choices is polyester. A marine-grade polyester can handle the elements without shrinking or stretching. Polyester is durable, especially when paired with a polyurethane backing, and it will hold up to UV rays better than a nylon. On the negative side, polyester does not breathe well, so if you go for a polyester cover, make sure it contains some form of venting. Moisture trapped under a covered boat can lead to mildew and mold growth. Vents allow moisture to escape and help keep the boat dry. Boat covers can either be sewn or glued together. Of the two, a stitched cover, especially one that is double-stitched or reinforced at points susceptible to wear, will hold up better, especially if it is exposed to sunlight. Did you know? Cover for center console boats is specially designed to provide maximum protection for electronics and other equipment in the middle of the boat. STAFFBestReviews The majority of boat covers come with straps to tie it down over the boat. When you buy a cover, make sure it comes with straps, and note their number and length. Polyester straps will hold up better than nylon. Quick-release buckles are a great help when trying to cover or uncover your boat. Support poles But not standard, some boat covers come with a support rod that can be used inside the boat to help keep water from pooling on the cover. Storage bag Most boat cover comes with a storage bag that can be used to hold the boat cover when not in use. Storage bags are usually made of mesh to keep the cover ventilated and prevent moisture from damaging it. Color Some manufacturers offer boat covers in colors other than the usual black or gray, such as blue or gold. If you have a choice, note that a darker color in the sun can make your boat warmer, which can damage electronics or other equipment, but the heat also helps ward off mold and mildew. Boat cover prices But you can find boat covers that cost less than \$40, most of them are in the \$80 to \$100 range, with some covers costing as much as \$300. Cheap: Between \$40 and \$80, you will find lower quality boat covers. Most of these are for smaller boats, but some claim to offer a universal fit. Mid-range: Covers that cost \$80 to \$100 tend to be bigger, better quality, and more durable for longer-distance trailering. Expensive: At the highest price point, \$100 to \$300, you'll find the biggest covers and those designed to fit specific styles of boat. Generally moving up in price gives you better waterproofing, stronger UV protection, and better mold and mildew resistance. Did you know? The best boat covers have a number of panels that help guide water away from the seams and outside the boat. STAFFBestReviews Also buy an outboard motor tyre. Most boat covers are primarily designed to cover only the boat and not an attached outboard motor. To protect the engine in stock or through transport, pick up an outboard motor cover. Make sure the cover is not too tight. Your boat cover must be loose enough for the air to circulate. If it is too tight, it can lock in moisture, which can lead to mold and mildew. Remove any snow that accumulates on the cover. Is that snowing where you live? If you store your boat outside in snowy weather, remove any accumulated on the cover. Snow and ice may weigh on the cover and may your boat. Buy the best cover you can afford. A boat is a significant investment, so don't scrimp when choosing a cover for it. Paying for good quality coverage will do a better job of protecting your boat and last much longer than a bargain cover. Q. How easy is boat cover to clean? A. A clean boat cover is a boat cover that will last a long time, and cleaning a cover is pretty simple. First brush off dirt, leaves or dirt. Wipe the cover with a solution of hot water and soap, or use a cleaning agent specially designed for boat cover. Rinse the cover to remove any traces of soap. Avoid using harsh cleaning agents. Refrain from scrubbing the cover because this can damage the protective waterproofing. Allow the cover to dry completely. This is especially important if you want to put it in its bag for storage. Q. How do I know what size cover I need for my boat? A. First, concentrate your search on covers made specifically for your style of boat, for example a V-hull or center console, and so on, or opt for a universal-fit cover. Next, measure your boat. First measure the beam width or the widest point of the boat. Measure in a flat line, edge to edge. Next, measure the center line from the tip of the bow to the stern. Be sure to take into account raised objects, such as a swimming platform, when measuring. Your goal is to find a cover that is a foot or so bigger than your boat. Q. How do I prevent water from collecting on my boat cover? A. Some covers have built-in panels to help channel water away from your boat. A cheaper option might be to buy a boat cover that includes a support pole. You place this inside the boat to the tent center of the deck so the rain will run away. If your cover doesn't include a support rod, you can easily buy one separately. Family Handyman Soon after I bought a new truck with an extended cab and tonneau cover, I discovered that I couldn't see my boat trailer behind the truck when the boat wasn't on it. This made backing up the empty trailer really hard. So I figured out an easy solution: I installed two fiberglass driveway markers (\$4 at home centers) on the trailer with hose clamps. I can easily see where the back of the empty trailer is, and the guides help me center the boat on the trailer when I put it. - Reading Dave Early Make sure your boat trailer lights are working properly, no one likes to follow the guy who can't figure out his trailer brake lights are out. Plus learn how to plug in a trailer in the video below. Originally published as: August 28, 2019 All good things have to be, and that includes a day of sailing. When you're ready to go back to shore, follow these steps: Steer your boat toward the ramp as you consider that the water will become more shallow as you get closer to the ramp. If you are working with a partner, you can get out of the boat at the wharf and bring your vehicle down to the boat ramp. If you alone, secure your boat first before you go Parking lot. Back the trailer down the ramp in the water. Use the bow line to guide your boat on the trailer. If your trailer has guide-ons, the boat must sit down in the right place on the trailer. If not, lead the boat into place by hand. Attach the game bar to the bow of the boat. Use the game to drag the boat the rest of the way up the ramp and into position. You can use either a manual hand-crank game or an electric game to do this. Attach the boat to the trailer. You don't have to attach every strap and cable to the boat, but it's important to make sure the boat doesn't roll out as soon as you drive up the ramp. Once your boat is secured on the trailer, slowly guide your vehicle up the ramp again. Drive your vehicle to the post-launch area. Once you are at the post launch area, unload your equipment from your boat, remove the key, attach the boat to the trailer using straps and cables and set the wires from your trailer to your vehicle. If you have a tarpau, now is the time to secure the tarpau over the boat. Just as you should prepare your boat before you approach the ramp, you should move your boat out of the ramp area before you start unloading it. Other people may need to use the ramp. It is correct launch etiquette to clear the ramp as soon as it is safe to do so. Ad That's all there is to it. If you follow these steps to launch and load your boat, you should minimize the chances of accidents, headaches and embarrassment. And you also know what to do if you see someone else having trouble starting a boat. With a little preparation and a healthy dose of patience, you will be destined for smooth sailing. What happens when you fire a boat? In the next section, we'll take a closer look at the physics behind it all.

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