

Customer Considerations Before Ordering a Custom Powerboat Cover



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Primary Considerations

The most important consideration before deciding on a new cover for your boat is to think about how you plan to use the cover. The following are some questions you'll want to ask yourself about use.

Is this going to be solely a storage cover?

Will the cover be used while the boat is on the water?

Do you need access to the boat while the cover is installed and if so, where?

Will you be towing the boat with the cover on the boat?

These considerations will determine the fabric choice and construction methods that we use to build your cover and ultimately, the price of the cover. We can usually build just about anything that is dreamt up by our customers; it just has to be remembered that these are 100% custom covers hand crafted in the U.S. and so the more complicated and difficult the cover becomes, the more expensive it becomes.

In order to provide a quote for a pontoon boat cover, we need to know what type and size of boat you have, the number of biminis, and a few photos to see exactly how your boat is set up. To provide quotes for most any other type of powerboat, it is usually best if the boat can be brought by our shop for a quick preliminary measurement. This will allow us to determine material usage and talk with you regarding various design concerns. Again, it can be very useful if you can provide us photos beforehand so we can see how your boat is setup which will allow us to ask the best questions.

Other features and Considerations

If you have a swim step, do you want the main cover to cover the swim step or do you want a separate swim step cover?



If you have a wake board tower, we can either cover the boat with the tower up and provide cutouts for the tower, or in the case of some towers that fold down, we can cover the entire boat and tower in the folded position. The photos below show a cover we built for a Malibu Wakesetter 23 LSV with a folding wake tower.



How far do you want the cover to extend down the side? We can go all the way to the trailer if desired. To extend the cover all the way to the trailer uses significantly more material and this style of cover will cost more than a cover that just extends to the gunwale or a little past. The photo on the left below is a Skipjack 20 cover that just extends to the gunwale and protects the top and inside of the boat. The photo on the right below is a wooden Chris Craft where the owner wanted to protect pretty much all of the boat so the cover extends all the way down to the bottom paint.



We can also cover your outboard while we have the boat here at the shop. The standard outboard cover is essentially a cap that covers the plastic cowling on top of the motor. If you really need to full encapsulate the motor, we are capable of building full motor covers as well. Both styles of covers can be seen in the photos below.



We've built a number of covers for customers who were seeking to have access to various hardware locations on their boats. Below are photos showing vinyl cutouts for cleats that allow the cover to remain relatively watertight while still providing full utility of the hardware. The second set of photos shows a cutout that we installed in a cover to give the customer access to the gas cap while the cover was on the boat.





When you bring us the boat to make the cover, you need to make sure that all parts of the boat are present and installed. This includes windshields, antennae, rod holders, anchors, wake towers, biminis, etc. Our goal is to provide you with a durable, good looking cover that is designed to keep water from puddling.

Recommendations Before Bringing Your Boat To SLO Sail and Canvas:

Think about what you'd like your cover to do for you and your boat. For example: keeping rodents out, help solve mildew problems, protecting upholstery, concealing valuable electronics from thieves, access to the battery for off-season charging, access to the gas cap, etc...

If you are able to, walk through a boatyard or to go to a marina and look at other boats with covers to see what you do like, and do not like in a boat cover. It can be helpful if you are able to show us photos of what you see and explain what you do or do not like about other covers.

Our primary goals in making the cover are to provide maximum UV protection and keep water out of your boat.

It is very important to bring your boat to us in the configuration you would like the cover to work in. All bimini tops, antennas, mounts, windshields, fish finders, rod holders, and anything else that may affect the shape of the cover must be in the proper position for us. Please add any hardware, mounts, or electronics before bringing the boat to us.

