

Navigating the Purchase of Your New Boat

Canada has been bestowed with numerous lakes and waterways offering breathtaking scenery, countless activities and a great deal of pleasure. One of the best ways to enjoy it is with a boat. For people new to boating, there are several boat types and a wide range of activities available to you. To begin, consider a few simple questions.

What do you want to do?

Do you want to fish, enjoy water sports or just cruise with friends and family? One of the terrific things about boating is that there are boats designed for everything. For many, a general purpose craft will meet their needs. For others, a more specific design is required. If you want, ask for a test drive.

How big a boat will I need?

Size is a function of how many people will be on board and where it will be used. If your choice comes down to a question of an extra two to four feet in size, buy larger if your budget allows. This will ensure the boat will meet your needs now and in the future.

What size and type of motor do I need?

A boat used for water sports will need more engine power than one used for fishing. Today's buyer can also choose from engines with the newest technology that are more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly.

What will it cost?

There's a boat for every budget. Newcomers are often surprised that their dream boat costs less than they expected. With financing, boats can be paid for in monthly installments. Buying a pre-owned boat can save money too.

How do I find a good dealer?

Shop around. Go to a boat show, if you can. You want a dealer that makes you feel comfortable. Make sure they answer all your questions and have a good service reputation.

What is the best time of year to buy?

The best time is when you are ready! Boat shows provide great opportunities to find "show specials" but be sure you have done some homework and identified the right type of boat for your needs. There are good deals on boats throughout the year.

Where can I learn the waterway rules?

Boating education courses are offered throughout Canada by course providers accredited by Transport Canada.

Remember...ask questions, shop around and enjoy your buying experience. Then when you find your dream boat, you'll understand why millions of Canadians believe that life is better with a boat.

For more information, visit www.discoverboating.ca.