

What Boat is Best for You?

The decision to buy a boat opens up a whole new world of exciting recreational activities and interesting destinations. There are many styles of boats to choose from, and soon you'll discover that finding the right boat for you is easy. Boats are designed to suit a wide range of activities – fishing, cruising, sailing, skiing – so the first step in finding your ideal boat is to consider what you want to do. Whatever your interests, there's a boat that's right for you! Here's a quick overview of some of the most popular designs. Pick one that is right for you!

The **bowrider** is a style of boat that combines versatility with high-energy performance. The defining feature – an open bow seating area – is particularly a favourite for kids, but adults quickly succumb to the thrill of skimming the lake.

Some refer to **all-purpose fishing boats** as SUV's because they are capable of pursuing many species, including bass, without compromising serious 'fishability'. They tend to have powerful outboard engines and sit higher in the water than bass boats, so they can also handle rough water in pursuit of walleye, musky and pike.

Like a houseboat, **cruisers** provide the fun of living on the water with the convenience of sleeping, cooking and plumbing facilities. Their hull style makes them at home in bigger, open water and enables them to move quickly and smoothly. Large enough to serve as a second home on the water, they are a popular choice for weekend vacationers who want to escape to inland waterways.

Designed for short sailing trips, **day sailers** typically don't include the living quarters that one needs for long range cruising. Many enjoy them just for the boating fun that comes from using the wind's power for propulsion. They are quick, often raced in regattas and a great boat for learning the fundamentals of sailing.

The hallmark feature of **pontoon boats** is comfort on the water with living room-like couches, lounges and swivel seats that beckon boaters to sit back, put up their feet and enjoy. When equipped with higher horsepower, they offer the combination of relaxation and the power for skiing and tubing.

Ski/wakeboarding boats are often inboard engine powered to provide maximum pull for skiers and a strong wake for wave-jumping fun. Inboard power also keeps the propeller under the boat, which adds a safety element.

To investigate your boat choice further, visit the new Discover Boating website (www.DiscoverBoating.ca) – a great resource for boaters of every skill level. In addition to interesting and vital boating information, you will find a simple Boat Selector tool that will help you narrow down your choices.

Be sure to check several different brands of your preferred boat type – you'll find that each one has its own distinct personality. Do your homework, shop around, and before you know it, you will be enjoying your day on the water in your new boat.

