

Boat Buying Checklist

By Jefferey Rondman

- Deciding on the Kind of Boat
 - Who will use the boat? Just family or will you invite friends?
 - How will you use the boat? Will you be fishing or water skiing? Taking day trips, weekend trips or week long excursions?
 - When, and how often, will the boat be used?
 - Where will you operate the boat? In lakes, rivers or on the ocean?
 - How much can you afford to spend? Remember about maintenance costs, insurance, registration fees, and instruction and safety course fees.
 - What type of boat suits your personality and temperament?
- Inspecting the Boat
 - Test drive the boat.
 - Take along several people on the test drive.
 - Check vibration - a vibrating boat makes a noisy boat.
 - When looking at an inboard/outboard boat check to make sure the trim works.
 - Test the steering from one direction to another.
 - Check to see how long it takes the boat to plane after take off.
 - Check if the boat slip smoothly into gear.
 - Make sure the boat works in reverse.
 - Check to see how many hours are on a boat.
 - Inspect the floor for soft spots, which indicate rot.
 - Ask for a maintenance history on the boat.
 - Inspect the hull and make sure it is in good condition.
 - Have a qualified marine mechanic thoroughly inspect the boat.
 - Check the temperature, RPM, and speedometer for proper function.
 - If a trailer comes with the boat you want to buy check the trailer thoroughly.