

Boat Lift Sizing Worksheet

Work out what your boat really weighs before you price a lift.

The weight in the brochure is the dry weight: no fuel, no water, no gear. A lift has to carry the boat the way you actually use it. Fill in the lines below, add the safety margin, and bring the result to your estimate.

6 lb
per gallon of gasoline, approximately

8.34 lb
per gallon of fresh water

15 to 20%
safety margin on top of loaded weight

Wet weight
is the number to size from, never dry weight

Your boat

LINE	MATH	YOUR BOAT	EXAMPLE: 24 FT CONSOLE
A Dry weight, from the maker's spec sheet		_____ lb	5,800 lb
B Engines, if not already in the dry weight		_____ lb	200 lb
C Fuel (gasoline)	_____ gal × 6	_____ lb	480 lb
D Fresh water	_____ gal × 8.34	_____ lb	167 lb
E Livewell or bait well (saltwater)	_____ gal × 8.5	_____ lb	255 lb
F Gear, batteries, electronics, coolers, T-top		_____ lb	450 lb
G Loaded weight (add A through F)		**_____ lb**	**7,352 lb**
H Safety margin	G × 0.20	_____ lb	1,470 lb
I Minimum lift rating (G + H)		**_____ lb**	**8,822 lb**

Round up, never down. Choose the next lift capacity above line I. If a bigger boat or heavier engines are likely in the next 5 to 10 years, size for that boat now. Diesel weighs about 7 lb per gallon, so use 7 on line C for a diesel boat.

macduffmarine.com
Call or text (239) 872-4300

Typical lift ranges by boat type

BOAT TYPE	TYPICAL LIFT CAPACITY
Standard PWC	**1,200 to 1,500 lb**
Sea-Doo Switch and larger PWC	**2,000 to 2,500 lb**
Bay boat or small center console, 18 to 22 ft	**6,000 to 7,500 lb**
Pontoon, 22 to 26 ft	**7,000 to 10,000 lb**
Center console, 23 to 26 ft	**10,000 to 12,000 lb**
Center console, 27 to 32 ft	**13,000 to 16,000 lb**
Cruiser or express, 28 to 36 ft	**16,000 to 24,000 lb**
Yacht class, 36 ft and up	**27,000 to 50,000 lb and up**

Starting ranges for planning. Your own number on line I decides the lift, because two boats of the same length can differ by thousands of pounds.

What else shapes the lift

- **Length and beam** set cradle width and bunk spacing.
- **Hull type.** Deep-V, flat and pontoon hulls sit differently.
- **Engines** change where the load sits.
- **Transom and keel** shape guides bunk placement.
- **The site.** Pilings, seawall, layout and water depth.

Have this ready for your estimate

- [ ] Make, model and year
- [ ] Published dry weight
- [ ] Length overall and beam
- [ ] Number, type and horsepower of engines
- [ ] The gear you normally carry
- [ ] Any upgrade you expect in the next 5 to 10 years
- [ ] Photos of the dock, pilings and seawall

About QABL aluminum boat lifts

- **6061-T6 marine-grade aluminum** frame with stainless hardware and stainless cables.
- **Built in Pensacola, Florida**, with sealed motor options.
- **15-year structural warranty** on QABL lifts. Terms for your lift are confirmed on the written estimate.



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Calculator: How to choose boat lift capacity has an online version of this worksheet.

Read: QABL aluminum boat lifts · Pontoon lift sizing · Aluminum vs steel lifts

Next step: Request a free estimate or call or text (239) 872-4300.

SCAN FOR THE CALCULATOR