

## Boat ramp etiquette

- 1 Be patient**
- 2 Assist others**  
Some people are new to boating
- 3 Move efficiently and safely**
- 4 Prepare away from the ramp**



### Connect With Us

1 Spring Street Melbourne, Victoria, 3000  
[betterboating.vic.gov.au/contact](http://betterboating.vic.gov.au/contact)



A branch  
of Transport  
Safety  
Victoria



## 03

### Ready to retrieve

Retrieving your boat by simply applying the launch principles in reverse – driving on or winching on.

- Position your car and trailer ready to retrieve.
- Make sure the winch rope is paid out to reach the winch eye and have the winch handle close by.
- Check the prevailing wind and wave conditions to ensure you can safely retrieve your boat.
- Raise the engine, winch/drive the boat into position and secure the winch brake.
- Connect the safety chain.
- Tow the boat to a safe area away from the ramp.

Before moving your car, check the trailer is properly secured.

Tow the boat to a safe area away from the ramp.



Make use of any designated rigging areas if applicable.

## 04

### Away from the boat ramp

- Make use of any designated rigging areas.
- Resecure the tie-down straps, safety equipment and take out bungs.
- Raise the motor and apply the leg support.
- Turn off any master switch and/or electronics.
- Double check your boat and trailer are secured before leaving.

## 05

### Back at home

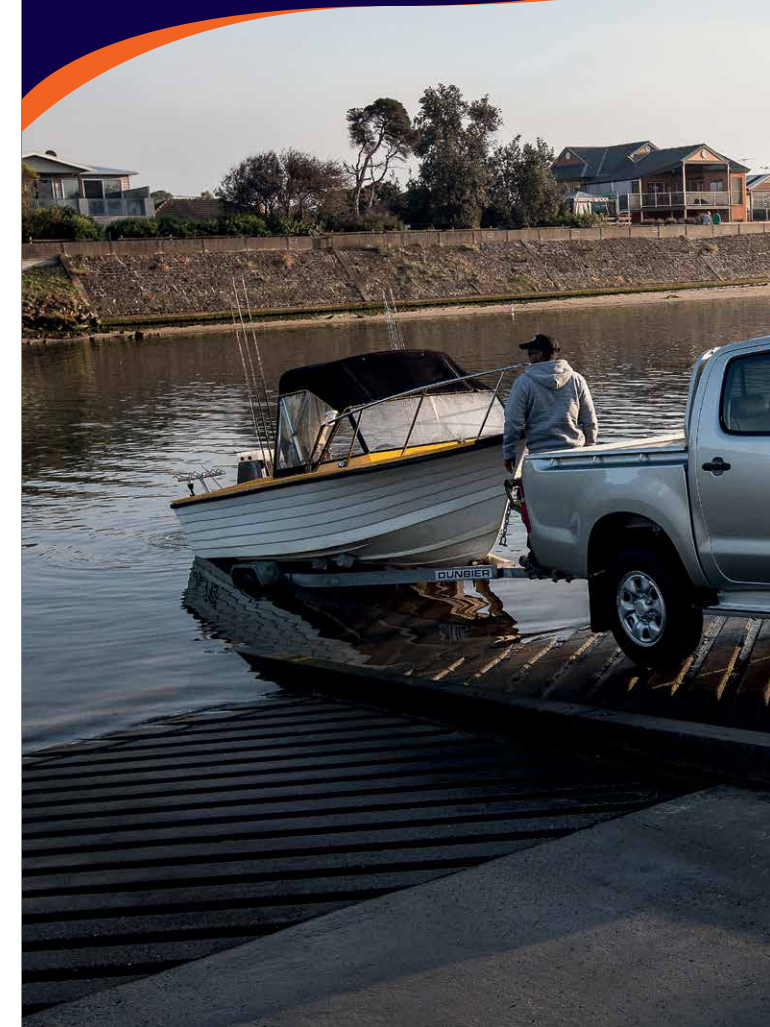
- Wash your boat, flush your engine, and wash the trailer's running gear.
- Check and clean your safety equipment before storing.
- Note any damage or issues with the vessel or safety equipment, and repair or replace.

Help stop the spread of marine pests by always remembering to check, clean and dry.



# Boat ramp guide

A guide to assist boat owners for launching and retrieving





# 01

## Preparation

Check out [boating.vic.gov.au](http://boating.vic.gov.au) when planning your trip. Boating Vic features the largest list of ramps in Victoria, ramp cam vision, localised weather from the Bureau of Meteorology, warnings and notifications, facility information and safety advice.

### Before you leave home

- If your ramp is not all-tide accessible, check the tides to know your launching and retrieving options.
- Check the Boating Vic cameras for the weather forecast and for congestion at the ramp you are planning on launching from.
- Check all safety equipment is on board the boat, in working order and hasn't expired.

**Enter your flares expiry date in your phone with a reminder to buy a new set.**

- Carry a suitable lifejacket for everyone on board.
- Check the battery is secure and fully charged.

**Enter your EPIRB registration and battery expiry dates in your phone with a reminder.**

- Check your boat and trailer are secured before leaving.
- Check the fuel level and make sure you have enough for your trip : 1/3 for heading out, 1/3 for returning, 1/3 spare.
- Check that all fuel hoses are secure and there are no spills.
- Consider boating with a friend and always tell someone your plans for the day and when you are due back.
- Ensure you have the means to raise the alarm (flares, marine radio, distress beacon, EPIRB/PLB).

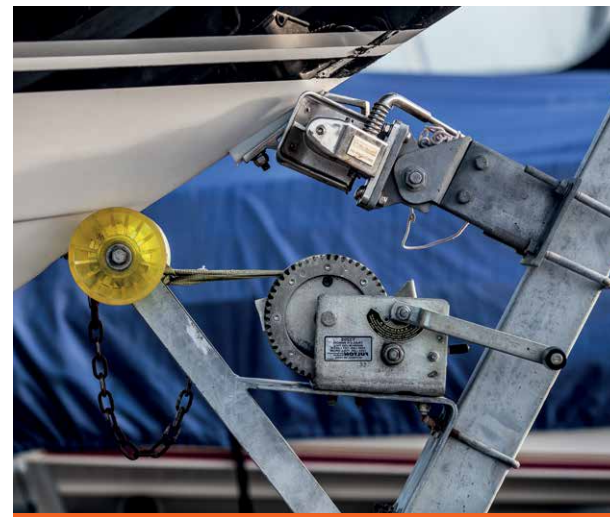
**If possible, start your engine at home to ensure everything is operating as expected – particularly if you haven't used the boat in a while.**

### Near the boat ramp

- Park well clear of the ramp and make use of designated rigging areas.
- Move the items you need from your car and store them securely in the boat.
- Remove and store tie-down straps.
- Ensure keys and kill switch are in the ignition and turn battery master switch on if needed.
- Raise the engine and remove the leg support.
- Put the winch handle in an easily accessible position.
- Remember to have a bow rope connected and ready for use.

**Don't forget the bungs.**

*Put the winch handle in an easily accessible position.*



*Reverse off trailer and slowly move away from the ramp to a suitable spot.*

# 02

## Ready to launch

**There's two ways to launch your boat – driving off the trailer and launching by hand.**

- Move your car into the launching queue.
- Have your lifejackets handy, and make sure everyone on the boat (including children) will be wearing one.
- When your turn arrives, reverse down the ramp, and **turn off your headlights before reversing.**
- Make sure your handbrake is engaged, and car is secured to prevent it rolling into the water.
- Be clear on who gets onboard, when, where and how.

### Driving off the trailer

- Ensure boat driver is wearing a lifejacket.
- Lower the engine – avoid hitting the ramp.
- Pump fuel bulb to get fuel to the engine if required.
- Start engine and put into gear.
- Disconnect safety chain-and winch.
- Reverse off trailer and slowly move away from the ramp to a suitable spot.

### Launching by hand

- Disconnect the safety chain and winch, and under control, push the boat into the water using the bow rope.
- Move to the side of the ramp or jetty if one is available.
- Pump fuel bulb to get fuel to the engine if required.
- Start the engine and slowly move away.
- Once the boat is clear of the trailer, immediately move your car to the parking area.
- Remember to secure your car and avoid leaving valuables inside.
- Don't delay others launching by leaving your boat moored for any longer than needed. If possible, move your boat out of the way so next person can launch their boat – don't block the launching ramp.
- Ideally if you are boating with others try to appoint someone to drive the boat and someone to park the car, this will save time for others waiting to launch or retrieve their boat.

