

# MAKING FAMILY LIFE MORE FUN



## Buying A Fishing Boat Is Easy And Affordable

(NAPSA)—Fishing from a boat is great fun for the whole family. It gives you access to those special fishing spots that can't be reached by land. Best of all, once you own a boat, every weekend is a family vacation.

Many people are surprised by how affordable it is to buy a fishing boat. But with so many options available, choosing one that fits your needs and budget can seem a bit daunting. To help simplify the process, here are a few tips for first-time buyers from the experts at the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF).

**1. How will you use it?** Although fishing may be your primary activity, are there other things your family might want to do, such as water-skiing or cruising? Consider how many people you'll want to accommodate.

**2. Where will you go?** Do you plan to go on a lake, river or larger body of water, such as the Great Lakes or the ocean? If you plan to use your boat for overnight trips, look for one with a cabin, head and galley.

**3. What's your budget?** In assessing costs, factor in operating expenses such as fuel and maintenance, as well as dry-stack storage or slip fees if you plan to dock at a marina. If it starts looking a bit pricey, don't fret. A basic rowboat and trolling motor can be had for less than \$2,000. You can also save by trailering your boat and using it for day trips.

**4. New or used?** If your budget is tight, a used boat is a good alternative. If you go for a new one, make sure it is National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) certified.



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**5. Financing.** Boats can be financed for extended terms, which helps keep the monthly payment low. Get in touch with a National Marine Bankers Association (NMBA) lender, or visit [DiscoverBoating.com](http://DiscoverBoating.com) for more tips and a handy loan calculator.

**6. Test the waters.** Before you buy, rent a boat from a local marina and go fishing for the day. It's a great way to get the family hooked and helps you decide on the right boat for you.

Visit [takemefishing.org](http://takemefishing.org) for more boat-buying tips and information on where to fish in your area. The site also includes boat show and dealer listings. There's even a section with information on blue book values to help you get the best deal on your boat.

### What Boat Floats You?

- **Center Console:** Great multipurpose boat.
- **Bowrider:** This open bow "fish & ski" is perfect for families.
- **Rowboat/Trolling Motor:** Popular with anglers everywhere and highly affordable.
- **Bass Boat:** Designed for the serious angler.

