

Bunk Positioning

The aluminum bunks should be the same distance away from the center of the front and back lower cradle beams, respectively. This will result in the boat being centered (port to starboard) on the cradle.

When conditions of low water exist, spread so the center of hull is as close as possible to the beam (without contacting beam).

Guide on Positioning

The Guide-ons should be centered on the cradle, which will result in the boat being centered (port to starboard) on the cradle.

Guide-on spacing on the cradle should be set to the beam of the boat. Guide-ons should be SNUG (not tight) along the sides of the boat to ensure proper positioning of the boat on the cradle.

Boat Positioning

SLOWLY position the boat using the PVC Guide-ons over the cradle. Always float the boat over the lift (never power on the lift). The CENTER OF GRAVITY of the boat should be centered between the bow and stern cradle beams. This position of the boat on the cradle will depend on the type and weight of the boat being lifted.

NOTE: Physically feeling the tension in the front and rear cables is an easy way to determine if the boat needs to move forward or backward in the lift. With proper positioning, the cable should feel the same. As a general rule, never leave the stern of the boat hanging aft more than approximately 4 ft. from the rear beam.

The PVC guide-on can also help guide the boat bow and stern into the proper lift position. When the boat is in the proper position (see note above) take a visual bearing of the location of a guide-on in relationship to a cleat or marking on the boat. Use this marking for future reference and always return to this center of gravity location when lifting the boat.

It is important to establish a reference point with electrical tape to know when you have submerged the cradle to a sufficient depth to get your boat on/off the lift. Begin by lowering the cradle until the boat floats. Then mark the PVC guide-on at the water line with electrical tape. Now, when the lift is lowered to the tape mark your boat will float both on and off the lift.

Continue lowering the lift (slowly) until the lower cradle hits bottom, stop, and raise the lift six inches. Mark cable at winder with electrical tape to establish a reference point warning that the lower cradle will hit bottom and cables will lose tension.

Proper positioning of the boat includes making sure the water will drain to the back of the boat and bilge pump. This is accomplished by slightly raising the front of the boat. The cables are shipped from the factory with a two inch pitch.

The installer can further adjust the cables to raise the front lower beam. In addition, the two front bunks can be moved closer together to increase the pitch of the boat for proper drainage.

Questions ? Please call us.

Universal Boat Lifts, LLC
6160 N Bluffs Ct.
Charles City, VA 23030
804-749-4671
boatlift30@gmail.com