

# A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO **BUYING A PONTOON**

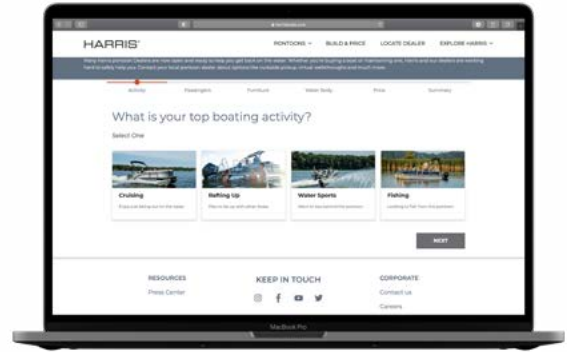


Purchasing a boat is a big decision, and equipping yourself with the right information can make the process smoother—and the outcome perfect. To help you, we've put together this inspirational guide to shopping for a new pontoon.

# HARRIS®

# STEP 1: FIND WHAT YOU WANT ONLINE

The best place to start your journey toward boat ownership is online. It's easier than ever to experience boats virtually, including features like virtual walk-throughs. Short quizzes like [Find Your Match](#) can help buyers learn more about what features they really need in a pontoon.



## FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF AS YOU RESEARCH



### WILL YOU USE YOUR PONTOON FOR WATERSPORTS, CRUISING, FISHING—OR ALL THREE?

You can have a pontoon floorplan that gives you all these options, or one that focuses on one of these activities.



### WHAT SIZE OUTBOARD WILL YOU NEED, BASED ON LENGTH OF EXCURSIONS AND DESIRED SPEED?

Many outboard options are available, depending on type of water, how many people you'll be carrying, and what is recommended for the boat's length. Popular outboards range from 75HP to 200HP, making watersports and cruising efficient and smooth.



### HOW MANY PASSENGERS WILL YOU NORMALLY CARRY?

Typically, 18-20 ft boats are perfect for smaller families and 20-28 ft work best for larger parties.



### HOW WILL YOU TRAILER AND STORE YOUR PONTOON?

Check the towing rating on your vehicle before you buy, and consider your storage options. Pontoons are usually stored at a marina or a special outbuilding, as most won't fit in standard garages. Covers are also available for pontoons that are stored outside.



### WHAT INTERIOR LAYOUT BEST SUITS YOUR FAMILY'S COMFORT AND STORAGE NEEDS?

Do you prefer an open stern for lounging, or a secure fenced-in playpen for kids? Multiple pontoon layouts are available for the way you like to enjoy the water.



## STEP 2: GET READY TO MEET YOUR DEALER

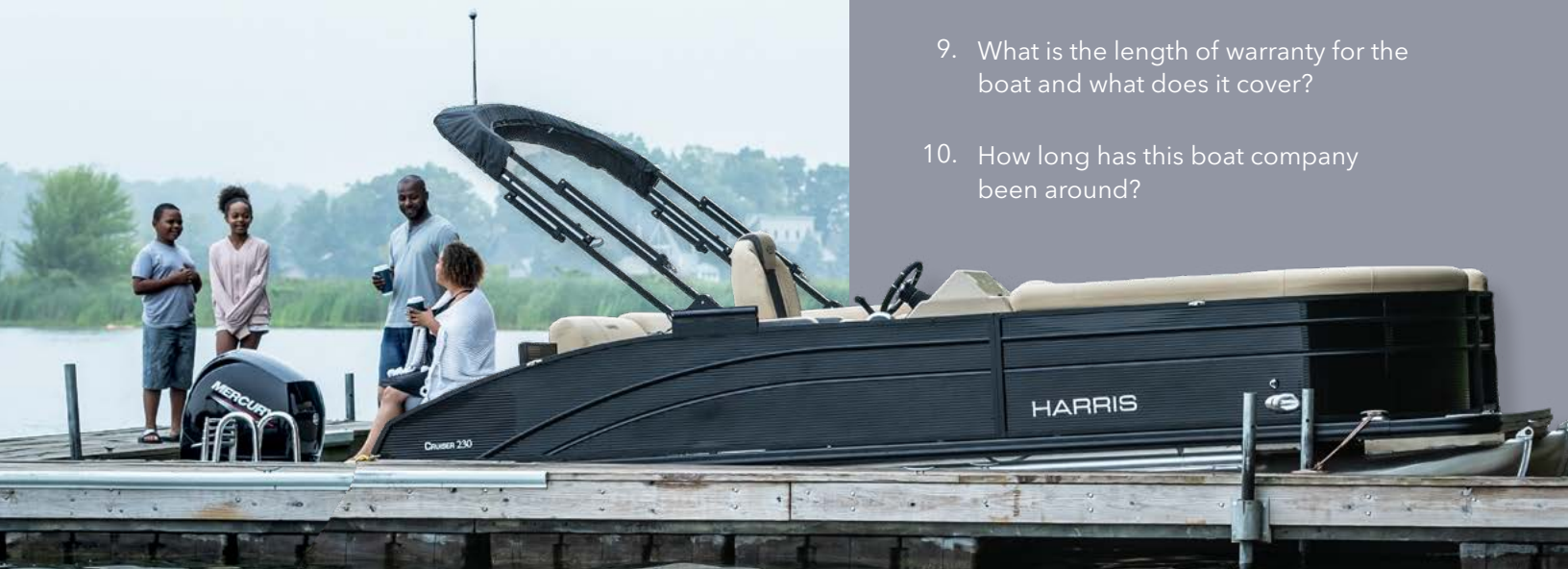
Once you have answers to the questions above and you've done your initial research online, locate a dealer through the [dealer locator](#). Your dealer will have a wealth of information for you, and you can help them guide you properly by following the six suggestions below:

1. Your initial dealer communication may be a phone call or a FaceTime or private VIP tour of the showroom. Dealers will help you with any questions and schedule a test ride if needed.
2. Build your desired boat or boats in advance using an online [boat builder](#), and print or bookmark the pages for reference.
3. Take along vested interests in your purchase—your spouse, children, or even a knowledgeable boat-owning acquaintance if you're a first-time buyer.
4. Have your financials in order. Know what you'll be able to put down and how much you'll want to pay per month.

# 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DEALER

Your dealer is an expert in all things pontoon, and here are the most common questions that you will want to ask:

1. What lengths are available and what are the advantages of bigger boats?
2. What are the different floor plan options?
3. How will I take possession of the boat?
4. What types of flooring are available?
5. What are the benefits of this engine model and what regular maintenance is required?
6. How should I store my boat, and what covers are included?
7. What are the performance package options, and do I need one?
8. What are my financing options?
9. What is the length of warranty for the boat and what does it cover?
10. How long has this boat company been around?



## STEP 3: ENJOY YOUR PONTOON

Time spent on the water is the stuff memories are made of. Now that you've made the decision to be a boat owner, you'll be adding precious value to life with friends and family.

As you continue your journey down the path of boat ownership, check out our [guide to mastering the language of pontoons](#)—so you'll sound like a pro from day one.

ENJOY YOUR BOAT,  
AND WE'LL SEE YOU  
**ON THE WATER!**

