



Five Simple Steps for Choosing Your Next PWC Cover



For all the time your [PWC](#) spends in the water, it spends a lot more time out of it, exposed to the sun and elements. And the best way to keep that sun and environmental assault at bay is with a quality cover.

Not sure what to look for? Here's a cheat sheet:

1. Fit. There are essentially two types of covers in the PWC market — *universal* fit, tailored to a craft approximately like the one you own, and *custom* fit, constructed to fit your specific craft like a glove. While the former can save you money up front, the latter is a far better long-term solution. A custom cover won't sag with rain or snow, or pucker and flap when heading down the road. It will also

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likely prove more durable in the long run, as features like handlebar ends or seats won't strain fabric and seams constructed to accommodate a wider variety of watercraft shapes and sizes.

2. Material. Just as price varies between universal and custom fits, so too does it vary between cover materials. Avoid cheap cotton canvas duck. Although fine for inside storage, it won't stand up to the elements outdoors. It's also not recommended for towing. Poly/cotton blends are breathable, durable, and strong, and up for the rigors of towing. Pure polyester features the highest tear strength, is very water-repellant, and yet still breathable. Still, the best, albeit typically most-expensive option, are acrylics like Sunbrella. Constructed from acrylic-covered polyester fibers, they're strong, breathe well, and are exceptionally water-resistant. Acrylics also are often best in terms of color, with a solution-dyeing process that better resists fading.

3. Drawcord/Tie-Down Loops. Typically, an elastic cord is fished within the perimeter hem to snug the cover below the craft's bondline and keep it in place. Look for multiple tie-down loops or buckles sewn into the hem. These allow a webbed strap to be used to secure the cover to the boat or trailer frame, both to keep the cover taut and in position, as well as keep it in place during trailering.

4. Colors. When it comes to colors be careful about the material you choose. Most colors will fade from excessive UV exposure and high humidity climates, if they aren't made from quality dyed material. Solution dye polyester and acrylic

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fabrics have the best resistance to fade because the dye is applied throughout the entire fabric, not just the top layer.

5. Water Repellency. Though material makes a difference, almost all covers get much of their water repellency through an external fabric treatment that wears away over time. When water begins to soak, rather than bead on the material, retreat the cover with a waterproofing spray like 303 Fabric Guard.

Now that you have chosen the [perfect PWC cover](#), take care of it! Spray off simple debris, like bird droppings, dirt, or sand with a garden hose. For other heavy duty stains we suggest using [Canvas Cleaner](#) to restore canvas to its original look and feel!

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