

How to enter your cradle on the Ramp at Granger's Point in 2025

Hauling a boat is easy, when you follow these steps, born of over 40 years' experience. You need two on board.

Preparation

Adjust your cradle's front and rear arms ('horns') to meet your boat's dimensions. The front horns act as a 'stop' to prevent your keel going too far ahead. The rear arms must be wide enough to allow the greatest width (beam) of your boat to pass through. Your cradle needs a bright coloured tape on the front starboard arm, so the Yard Foreman knows how far to submerge the cradle. The tape shows the height from your keel to the waterline.

The boat owner is responsible for providing **three good ropes** (minimum diameter, 12 mm) which must be correctly attached to the cradle prior to hauling. Neatly coil the loose ends and attach to the top of the cradle arms (you will collect them when floating in the cradle). Rope 1 on the starboard arm, ropes 2 and 3 on the port arm.

Ropes 1 and 2 ('Horn Lines') are attached to the base of the forward port and starboard cradle arms. When the boat is in the cradle, they are attached to cleats at the aft end of the boat.

Rope 3 runs from the trolley. Later it must be securely attached to the bow cleat, with about 150 mm of slack.

Haul Time

You will be given a time for your Haul. By this time, you must be tied correctly to the east pole (marked **E**).

How to arrive at the east pole

Allow extra time as there is a steady tidal flow from the east (red arrow).

Counter that tidal flow by approaching from further to the east (black arrow).

*Gently 'drift down' and then tuck inside the pole (marked **E**) easily.*

On the pole is a white rope. Attach this to the cleat on your starboard stern side, and **tie off**, as close to the pole as you can. Stop your engine.

If there is a boat at the east pole, kill time.

Be ready to tie on as soon as the other boat is hauled.

Preparing to enter the cradle

*The key to your Haul is the **white rope** attached to the pole. Tie your stern as close as possible to the pole, feed most of the white rope into your cockpit.*

Call the Yard Foreman for slack if necessary - he is at the purple arrow.

Drape the remaining white rope along the starboard side of your boat and through the fairlead on your bows and **make fast**. There should be about 4 metres of white rope left in the water until the blue rope starts.

Your cradle will soon move down the ramp.

Remain tied to the pole until the cradle has stopped moving.

Remember that the white rope is 'draped on' your boat

Quite soon it will have done its job and you will throw it overboard on the far side of the cradle.

How to enter the cradle

Pay attention to the Yard Foreman. Take a couple of turns on the white rope, around your stern cleat, and when instructed by the Foreman enter the cradle by carefully easing the white rope on the stern cleat as the Haul out team pull on the blue rope. Watch the bows carefully. With care, the bow and stern lines keep the boat going straight ahead into the cradle.

At the bows

Your second hand will help guide the boat onto the cradle.

Avoid snagging the pulpit and its light fittings on the cradle's arms.

When in the cradle ...

Three ropes prevent your boat falling backwards when going up the ramp.

1 and 2: Untie the Horn Lines and attach to cleats at the aft end of the boat.

Tension each rope **firmly** but they should not be tight. Ensure the line of the rope is **straight** and **not snagged or bent** on an obstruction.

Ensure starboard horn line is under white rope draped along the side. It will soon be thrown overboard.

At the bows

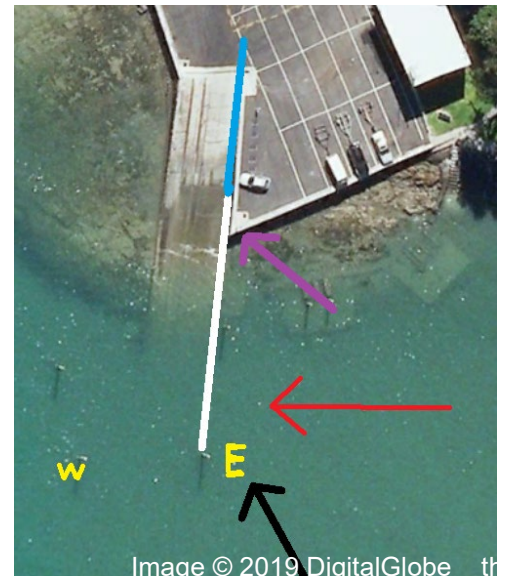
3: Lead **Rope 3** over your bows and attach firmly, with about 150mm slack. (*Photo above, black arrow shows bow rope*).

Those blue and white ropes

When secure in your cradle and instructed by the Yard Foreman, disconnect the blue and white ropes and throw them overboard. The ropes will be used by the next boat. The blue and white ropes must remain tied together.

Moving up the Ramp

You will be told where to sit to keep boat upright. Hold onto shrouds or mast; the boat can jerk without warning.



Print this page and have it with you on board when your boat is hauled.