

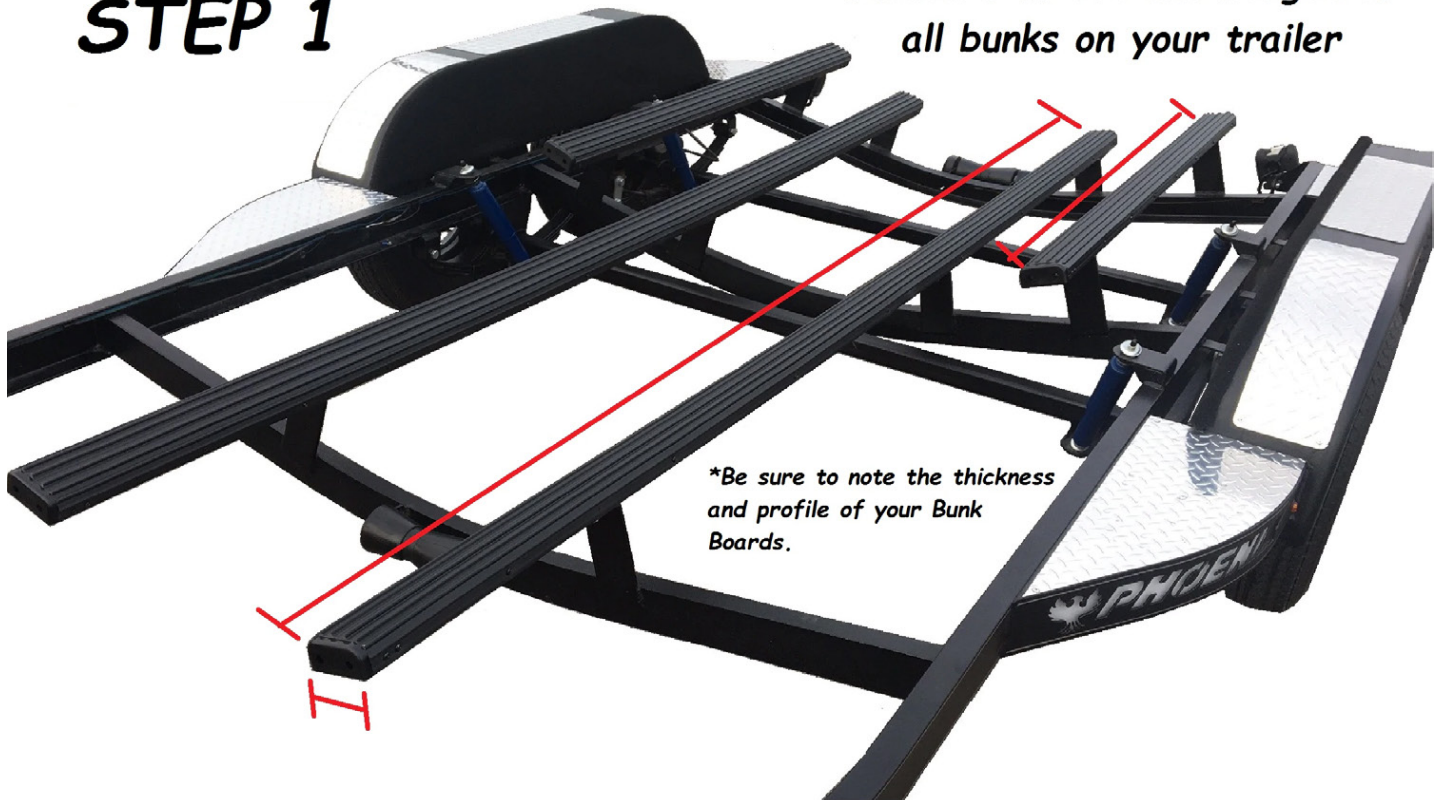
# How to Install

Gatorbak LLC produces our synthetic bunk covers in many shapes and profiles so we can provide our customers with the best fitting and longest lasting protective replacements for carpet. Soft and durable for the best overall value.[cc](http://www.gatorbak.com)

To get started, measure the bunks on your trailer or bunk lift. Be sure to note the shape of the bunk boards or metal. Using these dimensions, you can match your lift or trailer to the correct model of bunk cover.

## STEP 1

*Measure Width and Length of all bunks on your trailer*



## STEP 2



*Find the Installation Instructions you need here*

[Standard Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide](#)

[Gatorbak GB7 Installation Guide](#)

[Premium Clear Bunk Cover and LED Installation Tips and Tricks](#)



## Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide



1.1 Before and after installation Photo

### Foreword:

Thank you for your purchase of Gatorbak Bunk Covers. All of our Products are manufactured In the USA from our proprietary blend of synthetic materials and are constructed with 100% virgin materials. Our Products are backed by a three year warranty for quality in construction and durability. Be sure to complete your product warranty registration with Gatorbak LLC.

These Installation instructions are a guide for use with installing Gatorbak products, GBXXX Models. Because each installation can vary in nature of the equipment it is installed on, these Instructions are a general guide to the correct application methods. Our Team at Gatorbak is highly dedicated to customer support. If you have any questions please contact Gatorbak LLC and we will be happy to assist you.

### Tools Required/Recommended:

- Gatorbak Bunk Covers to fit the length of your Bunk Board area
- Stainless steel, 1" #10 Self drilling Screws for Wood and Stainless Steel 1" #10 Self tapping Screws for Metal bunks
- Sharp Cutters to trim material (Fixed blade Utility Knife or Carpet Knife, Straight Tin snips, Chop saw. 14 tooth hack saw can also be used.
- Power Drill with Bits to drive selected screws and a 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch drill bit to pre-drill each screw location 1/4" deep.
- Tape measure
- Marking pencil (grease pencil in contrasting color or marker)
- Tools for removing and replacing Bunk boards for your trailer
- Optional tools may be used to complete different installation methods. These tools will be discussed in the optional method notations.



Fig 1.2 Common Installation tools



## Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide

**Warning;** this guide recommends the use of various tools and or power tools for installation. Be sure that all appropriate safety precautions are used to avoid injury to persons or equipment. Follow all manufacturers recommendations of tool use at all times.

### Step 1.

For the purpose of this guide we will begin with new or replacement bunk boards. Measure the bunk boards on your trailer to ensure that your replacement boards are the correct length. It is recommended to allow treated lumber to dry before installation begins to obtain a true fit. Trim any excess length or width if necessary so the boards will fit properly. Using a tape measure mark out the locations of the mounting brackets on the back of the board to be used in order to help with bunk installation once they are complete.

#### Tips-n-tricks

- By using new lumber you can prepare your new bunk boards in advance, take them with you to the boat ramp and exchange them there with the boat launched off the trailer. Be sure to take all the necessary tools to make the swap quick and easy.
- If your looking to replace the Lag bolt mounting with carriage bolt mounting, the covers can be installed on the bunk boards over the recessed carriage bolts. Be sure to use a locking fastener for your new carriage bolts. Stainless Steel hardware is recommended
- Take this opportunity to replace old and worn hardware. Also, address any corrosion or rust in the bunk mounts.

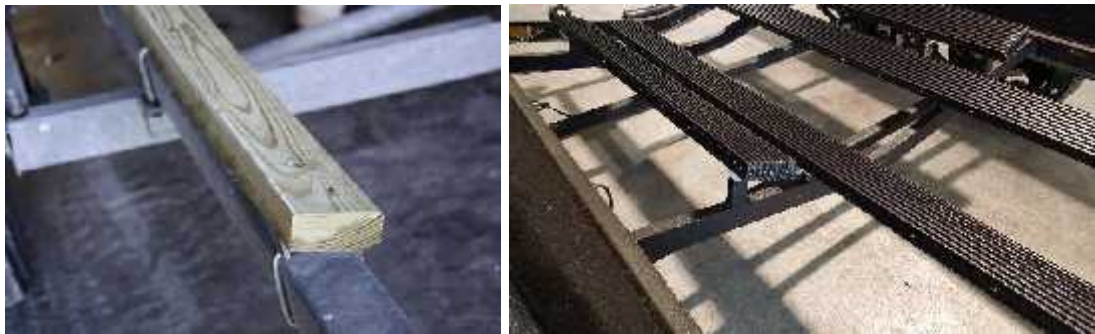


FIG 1.3 Decide if you will replace bunk covers on or off the trailer

### Step 2.

Layout the Bunk covers for initial fit. If using the flat end cap installation method your bunk covers should cover the bunk board from end to end and be flush with the end of the board. Trim any excess using a fixed blade or utility knife.

If installing your bunk covers with the fold over end cap method you will fit your covers to your boards and leave at least 1 ½” of the cover past the end of the bunk board where the fold over will be completed.



FIG 2 Plan how the end of your bunk covers will appear when completed

## Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide

### Step 3.

Using a clamp hold the Bunk cover in place against the bunk board so that it fits snugly in place. At one end you will begin placing your screws on one side to begin fastening the cover. The cover has a screw placement Line that runs the length of the cover along the side. Gatorbak Synthetic Bunk covers are designed so that all the mounting screws should be placed along the sides of the bunk. No screws should be installed facing in the upward direction in order to prevent a loose screw from damaging the hull.

The first screw is placed about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the end of the bunk board. The Second screw should be placed approximately 1" from this first screw. Each screw after these should be spaced evenly 6" apart. Once you come to the end of the first side complete the end in the same manner as the beginning with the end screw  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the end of the bunk board and the second to last screw about 1" from the end screw position.



FIG 3 Left, Note the screw placement for the end of the bunk board. Right, Attaching the cover with screws along the side

### Tips-n-tricks

- ) Move your clamps along the work surface as you go.
- ) Working from one end to the next will ensure that the cover is tight and has a snug fit.
- ) Use a drill bit to pilot drill the screw locations. Mark the bit at  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to save time.
- ) Once the starting screws are placed measure and mark the screw locations every 8 inches along the side. See FIG 3.1 for proper screw insertion.

## Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide



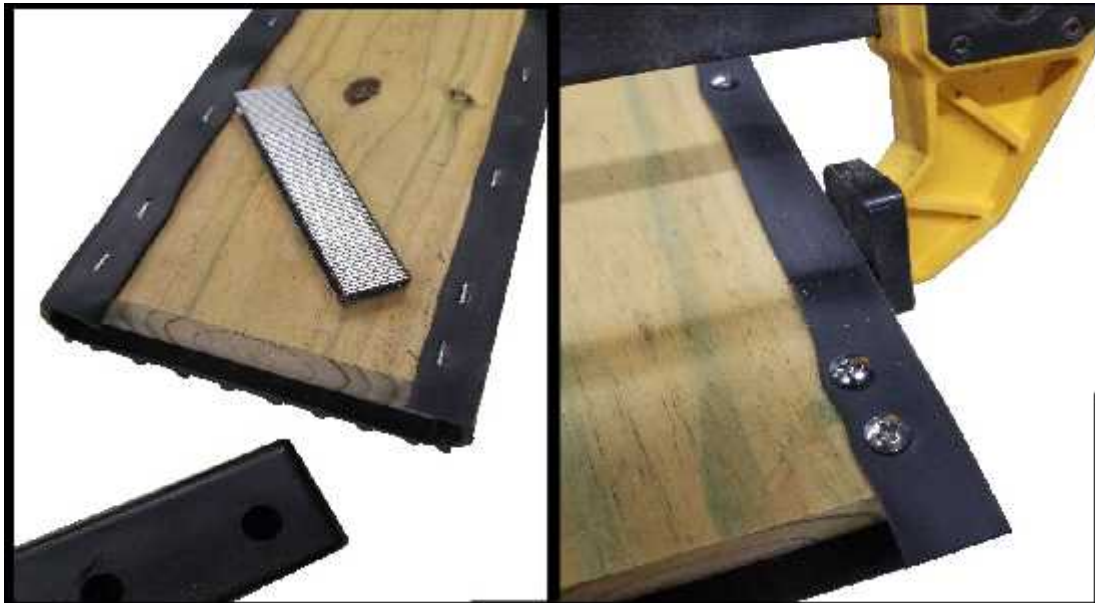
**FIG 3.1** The screw on the left has been installed too tightly. The screw on the right has been installed correctly and just begins to bind the Bunk material.

Once the starting screws are placed measure and mark the screw locations every 8 inches along the side. See FIG 3.1 for proper screw insertion

### Tips-n-tricks for Plus Series Covers

- ) Plus Series covers are designed to be affixed with Hardware on the bottom of the bunk where the cover wraps around.
- ) Staples can be used with Plus series covers for attachment. We Recommend Using a Wide Crown, 16 Gauge that is a minimum of 3/4" Long. Common T-50 type staples may not offer a secure mounting and applications may vary.
- ) If you choose to Use Staples making Repairs to Bunk Boards may become difficult unlike easily removed screws.

Place Staples 4" to 6" apart along the bottom of the Plus series covers. Screw Patterns are the same for standard covers and Plus Series Covers. See FIG 3.2 for proper Staple and screw insertion on Plus Series Covers.



**FIG 3.2** The screw example on the right and the Staple example on the left Show Mounting Details for Plus Series covers. These applications for hardware are used for all E Plus and Plus series Gatorbak Synthetic bunk covers models.

### Step 4.

Use a marking pencil to mark the screw placement from the first completed side to the opposite side. At anytime during the installation you can Pre drill the screw locations with a small drill bit to make driving the screws in



## Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide

easier if needed. Using a clamp, hold the Bunk cover in place against the bunk board so that it fits snugly in place. Begin placing your screws in the marked locations. When complete, the Gatorbak Synthetic Bunk Covers will be installed on the bunk board and you can begin finishing the ends as desired. Repeat these steps to complete all of the bunk boards for your trailer.



FIG 4 Screw placements are marked and screws are installed. Right, you can see a Drill being used to Pre-Drill a location for a screw. Use a smaller drill bit to allow the screws to grip properly when installed.

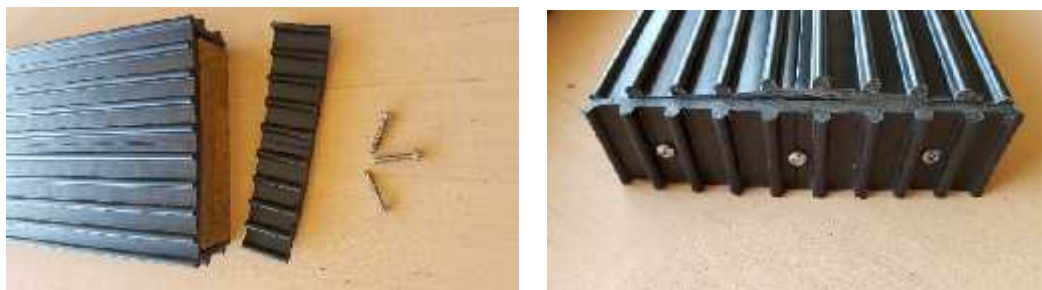
### Step 5. End cap Method

You can construct flat end caps or fold over end caps from excess bunk material.

## Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide

### 5A. Flat End cap Installation

If using the flat end cap installation method your bunk covers should cover the bunk board from end to end and be flush with the end of the board. Trim any excess using a fixed blade or utility knife. Flat style end caps can be attached directly to the end of the board.



### 5B. Recessed Flat End cap Installation

To instal the flat end cap recessed with Bunk Cover, first attach the Flat cap to the end of the board. Trim any excess so that the flat cap is flush with the end of the bunk board. Then fit cover with approximately ½” of overlap.



### 5C. Fold Over End cap Method

If installing your bunk covers with the fold over end cap method you will fit your covers to your boards and leave at least 1 ½”-2” of the cover past the end of the bunk board where the fold over will be completed.



After fully installing the mounting screws for the Gatorbak synthetic bunk cover Trim side legs, fold over edge, and attach to end of bunk board with screws.

## Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide

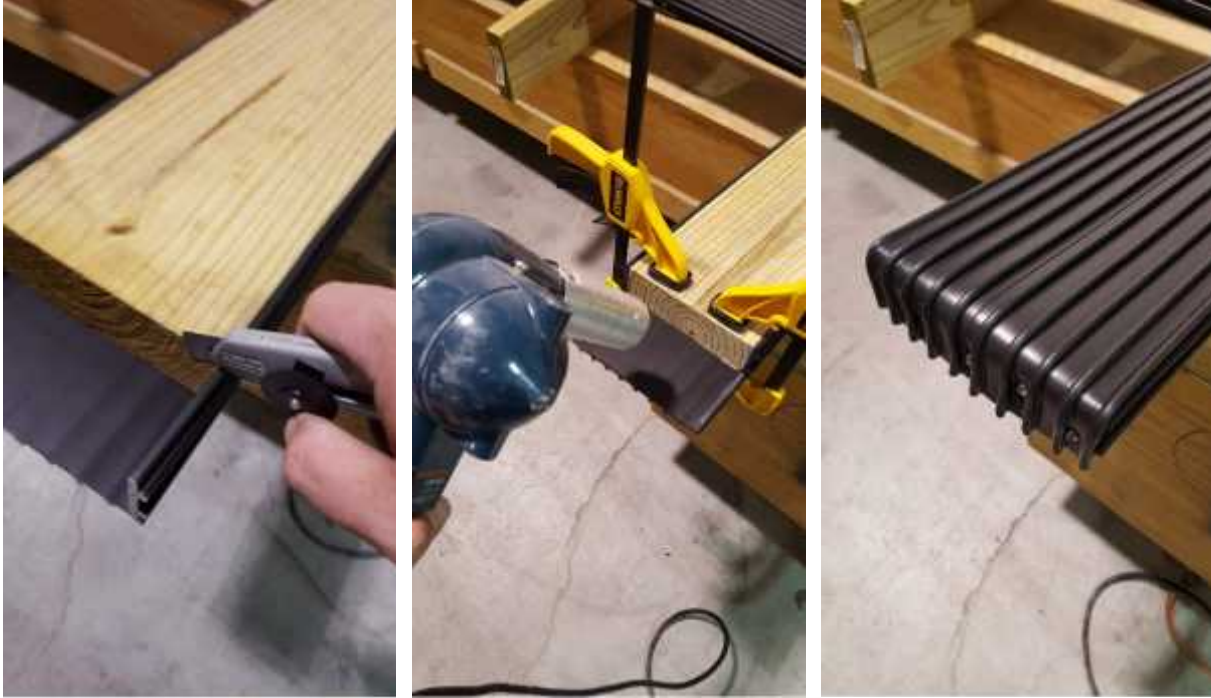


FIG 5.1 Shows the steps needed to complete the fold Over Method

### Tip-n-Tricks

- Scoring just through the rib material with a hacksaw or file along the folding edge or back scoring the bunk cover will allow it to bend more easily.
- Place screws on the end caps only between the ribs so the screw heads are tucked away
- Painted head screws will hide the screws better, and allow for a different finish to your project
- Clamping the top side of the bunk will aide in making the fold over more precise
- Bunk cover can be folded around and under the entire end of the board.
- Edges of ribs that are exposed can be knocked down with a file for a cleaner appearance if desired.
- When mounting the new bunks to your vessel on the trailer, loosen the pivot mounts once the boat is seated and centered and allow the bunks to settle to the hull so that they have the flattest fit, then retighten your adjustment points to the proper torque levels.

### 5D. Installing Premium Molded End caps.

To complete installation of the premium molded style end caps, first, align the end cap with the end of the bunk board. Complete this step on both ends of the bunk board allowing the final length of the completed bunk board with end caps to match the total length of the boards





# Gatorbak Bunk Cover Installation Guide

## Gatorbak Bunk Use

### **Some break-in of the ribs is typical,**

When you first begin Using your new bunks you may see areas of your bunks that will wear a little more than others. This is typical and once the new parts and the vessel have gone through a few loading cycles together this will subside. Often times highspots on the boards or in the bunk cradle will show these areas. Once your Boat has settled in on the New Bunks, you can remove the “curly Q’s” from the bunks to obtain a better asthetic appearance.

In the event that the wear is showing in places where this is not the case, some adjustment may be necessary. While the boat is loaded and centered on the chines where it should be, loosen the bunk assembly bolts to allow the Bunks to align themselves with the hull. Gatorbak bunk covers allow you to see the true fit of your bunks to your vessel. In some cases the bunks can be installed with spacers to allow a precise custom fit. Once the best fit is achived, be sure to re-tighten all hardware to recommended torque specifications,

### **Caring for your new bunks is easy.**

Gatorbak Bunks are made with UV and anti fungal protective compounds and will resist the elements well. Each time you get ready to load or unload your boat check the bunks to ensure dirt, sand, and debris do not collect on the bunks. Rinse these away or clean with a light detergent as needed. The bunks will allow these to drain away with normal use. Long range trailering, outdoor storage, and other factors like these between loading/unloading cycles can allow build up.

### **Loading and unloading your boat,**

Gatorbak bunk covers are designed to protct your boats hull during trailering. To achive this they are made of a custom blended synthetic material that is many times softer than your hull. Because of this, some rub off of material may appear on the hull area. These “eraser” marks can be cleaned away with a damp cloth. If a stubborn mark persists, use a typical hull cleaner to remove it. Be sure to follow all manufactureers recommendations for the use of these types of products.

Most of our customers will say that loading their boat on Gatorbak Sysnthetic Bunk Covers is very compareable to loading on carpet. While some will say it is a little stickier, some will say it is a little slicker. Each application can vary and this depends greatly on ramp conditions and your boats hull.

We strongly recommend against (aggressive) Power loading or (any) dry Loading your craft. In many places power loading is prohibited and can be hard on your equipment, vehicle and hull. Depending on the series of Gatorbak Bunk Cover Power loading could void your warranty.

### **NOTE:**

\*For Gatorbak Lift Bunk covers, and Gatorbak HD series Covers Power loading will void your Gatobak warranty.

\*\*For Gatorbak XP Series covers (MID 3/19) Power loading with wet bunks will NOT void your warranty.

### **GENERAL Loading Guide**

While ramp conditions can vary and will dictate the loading method required to compensate for wind, current or water level, Always ensure that your bunks are wet before loading. When loading your boat put your trailer in the water untill the bunks are covered in water as much as possible. Then pull your trailer forward until the bunks are just at the water level. Load your boat onto the trailer until the hull comes to rest on the bunks then connect your winch strap and winch the boat into the stop. Be sure to connect your safety and transom tie down straps as applicable.

# Gatorbak GB7 Bunk Cover Installation Guide



1.1 Before and after installation Photo

## Foreword:

Thank you for your purchase of Gatorbak Bunk Covers. All of our Products are manufactured In the USA from our proprietary blend of synthetic materials and are constructed with 100% virgin materials. Our Products are backed by a three year warranty for quality in construction and durability. Be sure to complete your product warranty registration with Gatorbak LLC.

These Installation instructions are a guide for use with installing Gatorbak products, GB7 Models. Because each installation can vary in nature of the equipment it is installed on, these Instructions are a general guide to the correct application methods. Our Team at Gatorbak is highly dedicated to customer support. If you have any questions please contact Gatorbak LLC and we will be happy to assist you.

## Tools Required/Recommended:

- Gatorbak Bunk Covers to fit the length of your Bunk Board area
- Stainless steel, 1" #10 Self drilling Screws for Wood and Stainless Steel 1" #10 Self tapping Screws for Metal bunks
- Sharp Cutters to trim material (Fixed blade Utility Knife or Carpet Knife, Straight Tin snips, Chop saw. 14 tooth hack saw can also be used.
- Power Drill with Bits to drive selected screws and a 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch drill bit to pre-drill each screw location 1/4" deep.
- Tape measure
- Marking pencil (grease pencil in contrasting color or marker)
- Tools for removing and replacing Bunk boards for your trailer
- Optional tools may be used to complete different installation methods. These tools will be discussed in the optional method notations.



Fig 1.2 Common Installation tools

## Gatorbak GB7 Bunk Cover Installation Guide

**Warning;** this guide recommends the use of various tools and or power tools for installation. Be sure that all appropriate safety precautions are used to avoid injury to persons or equipment. Follow all manufacturers recommendations of tool use at all times.

### Step 1.

For the purpose of this guide we will begin with new or replacement bunk beams. Measure the bunk beam on your trailer to ensure that your replacement beams are the correct length and fit. It is recommended to allow treated lumber to dry before installation begins to obtain a true fit. Trim any excess length or width if necessary so the beams will fit properly. Using a tape measure mark out the locations of the mounting brackets on the beam to be used in order to help with bunk installtion once they are complete.

#### Tips-n-tricks

- By using new lumber you can prepare your new bunk beams in advance, take them with you to the boat ramp and echange them there with the boat launched off the trailer. Be sure to take all the necessary tools to make the swap quick and easy.
- Take this opportunity to replace old and worn hardware. Also, address any corrosion or rust in the bunk mounts.
- Beam Mounts through the side can be mounted over the Gatorak Bunk cover or the cover can be trimmed. If trimming the cover for the verticle mount be sure to use additional hardware to ensure trimmed are is securly mounted.

### Step 2.

Layout the Bunk covers for initial fit. Determine the proper bunk cover length and bunk beam length to accommodate the full length of the cover. Trim the Length of the bunk cover with about a half of an inch of extra length to create the overlap for the end cap. End caps are not required but will give an aesthetic appearance. Trace the end cap form additional GB7 Material. You will need to determine how you will mount your end caps in this planning step.

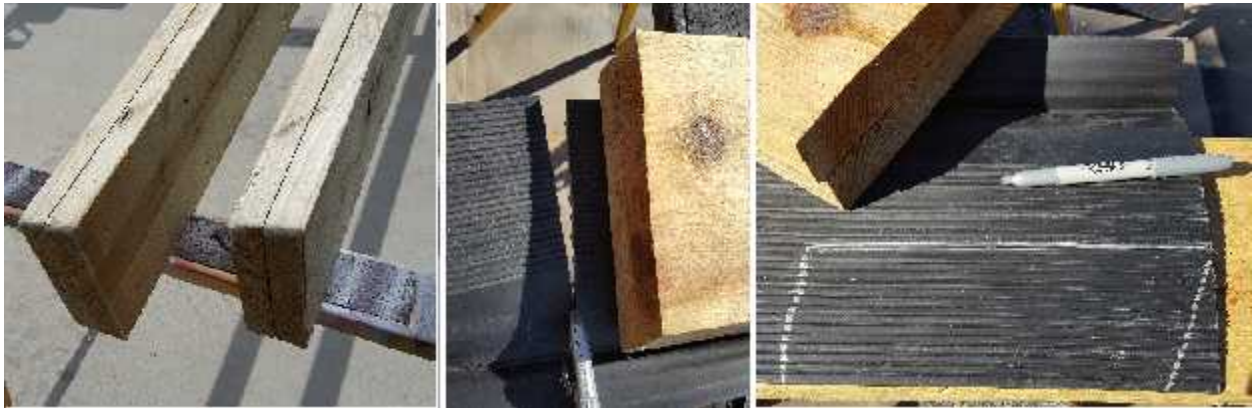


FIG 2 Plan how the end of your bunk covers will appear when completed

#### Tips-n-tricks

- Flat end caps can be mounted flush or can be recess mounted with about ½” of overlap from the Gatorbak bunk cover.
- For recessed end caps it is best to mount the end caps before mounting cover to ensure proper overlap is achived.



## Gatorbak GB7 Bunk Cover Installation Guide

### Step 3.

First align the Angled Leg on the outside of the Bunk Beam. Hold the cover firmly against the leading corner and attach the length of the outside leg to the Bunk beam. Place screws 6-8" apart while beginning with double screws. Once the outside leg (leading edge) is installed pull the remaining cover tight against the face of the top of the bunk beam. Place clamps along the face side to hold the bunk cover in place while inserting mounting hardware.



FIG 3.0 Left, Note the screw placement for the end of the bunk board. Right(2), Attaching the cover to the front of beam, Screws should be placed on last row or two of ridges along front side, far and away from any possible contact point with hull.

Gatorbak Synthetic Bunk covers are designed so that all the mounting screws should be placed along the sides of the bunk beam. No screws should be installed facing in the upward direction in order to prevent a loose screw from damaging the hull.

The first screw is placed about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the end of the bunk board. The Second screw should be placed approximately 1" from this first screw. Each screw after these should be spaced evenly 8" apart. Once you come to the end of the first side complete the end in the same manner as the beginning with the end screw  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the end of the bunk board and the second to last screw about 1" from the end screw position.

#### Tips-n-tricks

- J Move your clamps along the work surface as you go.
- J Working from one end to the next will ensure that the cover is tight and has a snug fit.
- J Use a drill bit to pilot drill the screw locations. Mark the bit at  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to save time.
- J Once the starting screws are placed measure and mark the screw locations every 8 inches along the side. See FIG 3.1 for proper screw insertion.
- J The cover should bend easily at the corners. If a tighter fit is desired, gently heating the cover along the breakover edge of the beam will be helpful.

## Gatorbak GB7 Bunk Cover Installation Guide



**FIG 3.1** The screw on the left has been installed too tightly. The screw on the right has been installed correctly and just begins to bind the Bunk material

If the Inside face of your GB7 Cover is longer on your Beam application you may also consider adding additional hardware to ensure a snug fit. While stainless steel screw with button heads are recommended you may use staples in areas that you wish to have extra fasteners for cosmetic use. IN the below picture screws are mounted alternating with the primary mounting hardware.



**FIG 3.2** Additional screws installed to secure excess cover width. If desired cover can be trimmed to any final width. Ensure all screws are mounted within the channels and away from any facing that contacts the hull. Stainless Steel Staples can be used as well (not shown) as the primary mounting is done with the recommended screws.





# Gatorbak GB7 Bunk Cover Installation Guide

## End Cap installation

You can construct end caps with a Recessed or flat style mounting from excess bunk material.

### Flat End cap Installation

If using the flat end cap installation method your bunk covers should cover the bunk board from end to end and be flush with the end of the beam. Trim any excess using a fixed blade or utility knife. Flat style end caps can be attached directly to the end of the board and should cover edge to edge with the cover.



FIG 4 Use the end of the bunk Beam to create the pattern that you need for your end cap, once mounted trim the End of the cover or cap to complete the fit.

### Recessed End cap Installation

To instal the flat end cap recessed with Bunk Cover, first attach the Flat cap to the end of the board. Trim any excess so that the flat cap is flush with the end of the bunk board. Then fit cover with approximately ½” of overlap.



FIG 4.1 Use the end of the bunk Beam to create the pattern that you need for your end cap, once mounted trim the End of the cover or cap to complete the fit.

### Tip-n-Tricks

- Painted head screws will hide the screws better, and allow for a different finish to your project
- Edges of ribs that are exposed can be knocked down with a file for a cleaner appearance if desired.
- Additional Stainless steel staples can be used to aide with mounting the endcaps to help secure the ends if desired.



# Gatorbak GB7 Bunk Cover Installation Guide

## Gatorbak Bunk Use

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

When mounting the new bunks to your vessel on the trailer, loosen the pivots and mounts once the boat is seated and centered and allow the bunks to settle or adjust to the hull so that they have the flattest fit, then retighten your adjustment points to the proper torque levels. It is important that your bunks fit the Hull as it sits on the trailer or lift.

### **Some break-in of the ribs is typical,**

When you first begin Using your new bunks you may see areas of your bunks that will wear a little more than others. This is typical and once the new parts and the vessel have gone through a few loading cycles together this will subside. Often times highspots on the boards or in the bunk cradle will show these areas. Once your Boat has settled in on the New Bunks, you can remove the “curly Q’s” from the bunks to obtain a better asthetic appearance.

In the event that the wear is showing in places where this is not the case, some adjustment may be necessary. While the boat is loaded and centered on the chines where it should be, loosen the bunk assembly bolts to allow the Bunks to align themselves with the hull. Gatorbak bunk covers allow you to see the true fit of your bunks to your vessel. In some cases the bunks can be installed with spacers to allow a precise custom fit. Once the best fit is achieved, be sure to re-tighten all hardware to recommended torque specifications,

### **Caring for your new bunks is easy.**

Gatorbak Bunks are made with UV and anti fungal protective compounds and will resist the elements well. Each time you get ready to load or unload your boat check the bunks to ensure dirt, sand, and debris do not collect on the bunks. Rinse these away or clean with a light detergent as needed. The bunks will allow these to drain away with normal use. Long range trailering, outdoor storage, and other factors like these between loading/unloading cycles can allow build up.

### **Loading and unloading your boat,**

Gatorbak bunk covers are designed to protct your boats hull during trailering. To achive this they are made of a custom blended synthetic material that is many times softer than your hull. Because of this, some rub off of material may appear on the hull area. These “eraser” marks can be cleaned away with a damp cloth. If a stubborn mark persists, use a typical hull cleaner to remove it. Be sure to follow all manufactureers recommendations for the use of these types of products.

Most of our customers will say that loading their boat on Gatorbak Sysnthetic Bunk Covers is very compareable to loading on carpet. While some will say it is a little stickier, some will say it is a little slicker. Each application can vary and this depends greatly on ramp conditions and your boats hull.

We strongly recommend against (aggressive) Power loading or (any) dry Loading your craft. This will void your warranty from Gatorbak. In many places power loading is prohibited and can be hard on your equipment, vehicle and hull.

While ramp conditions can vary and will dictate the loading method required to compensate for wind, current or water level, Always ensure that your bunks are wet before loading. When loading your boat put your trailer in the water untill the bunks are covered in water as much as possible. Then pull your trailer forward until the bunks are just at the water level. Load your boat onto the trailer until the hull comes to rest on the bunks then connect your winch strap and winch the boat into the stop. Be sure to connect your safety and transom tie down straps as applicable.

## Gatorbak Premium Clear Bunk Tips and tricks guide



FIG 1. Before and after installation Photo for Customized Clear bunks

### Foreword:

Thank you for your purchase of Gatorbak Synthetic Premium Clear Bunk Covers. All of our Products are manufactured In the USA from our proprietary blend of synthetic materials and are constructed with 100% virgin materials. Our Products are backed by a three year warranty for quality in construction and durability. Be sure to complete your product warranty registration with Gatorbak LLC.

These Installation instructions are a guide for use with installing Gatorbak products, GBXXX Premium Clear Bunk Cover Models. Because each installation can vary greatly by customization, these Instructions are a general guide to the suggested application methods. Our Team at Gatorbak is highly dedicated to customer support. If you have any questions please contact Gatorbak LLC and we will be happy to assist you.

### Tools Required/Recommended:

- Gatorbak Bunk Premium Clear Bunk Covers to fit the length of your Bunk Board area
- Common Installation tools for Gatorbak bunk covers See Installation Guide.
- Router or other cutter that will groove the Bunk Boards
- Tape measure
- Marking pencil
- Wiring tools and connectors



Fig 2 Common Installation tools

## Gatorbak Premium Clear Bunk Tips and tricks guide

**Warning;** this guide recommends the use of various tools and or power tools for installation. Be sure that all appropriate safety precautions are used to avoid injury to persons or equipment. Follow all manufacturers recommendations of tool use at all times. No customization of the Bunks should be attempted that would weaken the integrity of the bunk board used. Light modification will achieve strong results.

### Step 1. Plan Your customized bunk boards

For the purpose of this guide we will begin with new or replacement bunk boards. Measure the bunk boards on your trailer to ensure that your replacement boards are the correct length. Plan the Steps you will use to customize your Premium Clear Bunk covers. Painting, or adding LED lighting strips.

#### Tips and Tricks

- Start with fitting the covers to your bunk boards this will allow you to see where Screws and end caps will be placed if you plan to Light your Bunks with LED.
- Plan your trailer wiring as well if using LED lighting strips.
- When measuring for LED light strips allow space for connectors and caps.
- Use High Quality LED light strips that are water proof in order to prevent unnecessary maintenance needs
- Keep in Mind that the application of Lighting on vehicles is covered by your state or local DOT regulations.

### Step 2. Fitting your bunk boards before customizing them

Layout the Bunk covers for initial fit. Determine the proper bunk cover length and bunk board length to accommodate the style of End cap you have selected



FIG 3 Plan how the end and the rest of your bunk covers will appear when completed

For End cap installation mount end caps on bunk boards before fitting Gatorbak bunk covers. The cover will over lap the end cap by about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " . This will also allow you to see where screws will mount the caps so if your using LED light strips you can route the wires away from these areas.

Mount the bunk covers and end caps so that all of the mounting holes are visible when working to customize the bunk boards. Steps 3 and 4 will cover customizations.

#### Tips:

- Mark your Bunk boards and Covers so you can match them back together later when completing the final assembly. This will allow all of your mounting holes to line up easily
- Don't drive screws completely into the assembly. This can be done in final assembly and will allow a secure final fit.



## Gatorbak Premium Clear Bunk Tips and tricks guide

### Step 3. Optional LED Strip Use

If Using LED strips it is recommended that you place a groove in the surface of the bunk that will allow the LED strip to be recessed below the bunk board surface so that when installed the Clear cover lays flat on the board. Measure the LED Strip and mark placements on the bunk board. Using a router or Dado Blade in a table saw. Cut grooves into the top of the bunk board as needed.

Tips and Tricks:

- Cut your grooves as straight as possible to keep the appearance clean
- Allow extra space for adhesive or mounting tape for LED strips if not pre installed on your LED strip
- You may want or need to cut additional grooves for wire runs if your LED strips are not continuous.
- When deciding where to place the LEDs under the cover keep in mind that the ribs on the top of the cover will also help to spread the light when it shines through while the flat areas between ribs will allow the LED light to be more directly visible
- Side Mounting LED strips to the bunk boards is also possible, avoid the screw placements and do not place lights directly on the corner. Allow the groove to help protect the strip on both sides.
- LED Light strips will allow light to “carry” through the cover. Short strips will allow you to see your bunks clearly for Loading, while longer, full length strips. Will also provide more affect.
- Multiple strips can be used for the different widths of bunk boards.



FIG 4 Marking, Planning and cutting grooves for LED strips

### Step 4. Finish the bunk board

The Premium Clear Bunk cover will allow you to see the color of your bunks through the cover as well. This will allow you to add additional color for your trailer. At this point you have made all of the physical modifications needed to the bunk boards and you can color finish them as desired.



FIG 5 Color finished samples for demonstration

## Gatorbak Premium Clear Bunk Tips and tricks guide

The Clear bunks allow best visibility of colors through the sides. Gatorbak synthetic bunk covers are thick on the top portion to be more durable. The UV protectant in the Gatorbak covers does give a slight blue tint to the cover and where it is thicker, the color finish is not as crisp or viewable.

### Step 4 Tips and tricks:

- Solid colors work best, avoid Prints or detailed aspects. If used they will be more viewable on the sides.
- Match your Bunk Colors to the trim colors on the baot to tie things together visually.
- Use water proof or exterior finishes to color your bunk boards
- Bunk boards can be left plain or “natural” as well.
- Finish all ends and sides, often times the bottoms of the tips of your trailers bunks can be seen when the boat is loaded.
- Allow your color finishing to dry completely before final assembly

### Step 5. Final Assembly

After color finishing your bunk boards your ready to begin final assembly. Affix your Led Strips if used and run wiries free of the top side of the bunks. Attach end caps and instal the Premium clear covers. Remove and replace your old trailer bunks with your new Gatorbak Synthetic Custom finished bunks and complete trailer wiring as needed.

### Tips and tricks:

- If using Clear silicone or other sealants for any wiring or parts of the LED strip installation be sure to allow them to cure before final assembly
- Wires can be mounted to the under side of the bunks a ran to the trailer frame along the bunk brackets to frame.
- Use proper wiring techniques. Make sure your connections are waterproof and fused.
- Regualr cleaning of the Bunks will help to keep the colors and LED's bright and less debris away from your boat.



# Gatorbak Premium Clear Bunk Tips and tricks guide

## Gatorbak Bunk Use

### **Some break-in of the ribs is typical,**

When you first begin Using your new bunks you may see areas of your bunks that will wear a little more than others. This is typical and once the new parts and the vessel have gone through a few loading cycles together this will subside. Often times highspots on the boards or in the bunk cradle will show these areas. Once your Boat has settled in on the New Bunks, you can remove the “curly Q’s” from the bunks to obtain a better asthetic appearance.

In the event that the wear is showing in places where this is not the case, some adjustment may be necessary. While the boat is loaded and centered on the chines where it should be, loosen the bunk assembly bolts to allow the Bunks to align themselves with the hull. Gatorbak bunk covers allow you to see the true fit of your bunks to your vessel. In some cases the bunks can be installed with spacers to allow a precise custom fit. Once the best fit is achived, be sure to re-tighten all hardware to recommended torque specifications,

### **Caring for your new bunks is easy.**

Gatorbak Bunks are made with UV and anti fungal protective compounds and will resist the elements well. Each time you get ready to load or unload your boat check the bunks to ensure dirt, sand, and debris do not collect on the bunks. Rinse these away or clean with a light detergent as needed. The bunks will allow these to drain away with normal use. Long range trailering, outdoor storage, and other factors like these between loading/unloading cycles can allow build up.

### **Loading and unloading your boat,**

Gatorbak bunk covers are designed to protct your boats hull during trailering. To achive this they are made of a custom blended synthetic material that is many times softer than your hull. Because of this, some rub off of material may appear on the hull area. These “eraser” marks can be cleaned away with a damp cloth. If a stubborn mark persists, use a typical hull cleaner to remove it. Be sure to follow all manufactureers recommendations for the use of these types of products.

Most of our customers will say that loading their boat on Gatorbak Sysnthetic Bunk Covers is very compareable to loading on carpet. While some will say it is a little stickier, some will say it is a little slicker. Each application can vary and this depends greatly on ramp conditions and your boats hull.

We strongly recommend against (aggressive) Power loading or (any) dry Loading your craft. This will void your warranty from Gatorbak. In many places power loading is prohibited and can be hard on your equipment, vehicle and hull.

While ramp conditions can vary and will dictate the loading method required to compensate for wind, current or water level, Always ensure that your bunks are wet before loading. When loading your boat put your trailer in the water untill the bunks are covered in water as much as possible. Then pull your trailer forward until the bunks are just at the water level. Load your boat onto the trailer until the hull comes to rest on the bunks then connect your winch strap and winch the boat into the stop. Be sure to connect your safety and transom tie down straps as applicable.