


[Spanish version](#)

Tips for Installing a Rub Rail

You rub rail comes prewrapped in plastic. Remove the plastic and let the rub rail relax for a while before you attempt installation. Warm days are better or heated area so the rail is easier to handle.

- Screws are lined up just below the line that runs down the center of the rail.
- Mark the deck where the screws will go. If you are replacing an old rail move the marks so you miss the old holes and make new ones. We normally fill the old holes to help keep water out.
- First screws are placed 2” from the back corner, then every 9”
 - Example: start of rail at corner of transom
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- Front screws should end about 1.75” to 2” from the bow.
- You may have to adjust the spacing to get the starting and ending points where you want them.
- You may want to heat and straighten the first section of rail before starting the installation. That will give a better line to the transom.
- Starting in the back drill and install first two screws of rail.
- Stretch out the rail all the way to the bow but let it lay on the hull under the edge of the deck.
- Hold the bow end up on the deck edge. Have one person pull forward on the rail with about 20 to 30 lbs of pressure. Do not pull too hard or the next step will be very hard to do. Install the last two or three screws near the bow.
- Go back about 4’ from the transom of the boat and pull rail away from the hull and up onto the edge of the deck and tape in a number of places to hold rail up to you can drill and screw in place. Please be careful and have help so you do not pinch your fingers. This is the secret to getting a nice looking smooth rail.

- Drill and screw in the whole one side of the boat.
- To wrap the rail around the bow we use a heat gun to soften material for ease of shaping (bow area only). Have one person hold the rail straight out forward and do not let it drop or twist. The other person will heat the rail at the first corner of the bow.
- **DO NOT OVER HEAT!** You will feel the plastic start to get soft then the front person bends the rail straight across the bow. **Do Not** pull while hot or the rail will stretch!
- After heating material and bending around the bow, use a cold piece of steel to mold rail around the bow.
- After bending at the bow use cold water and a rag to cool it down before reheating for the second bend.
- Repeat the procedure to bend the rail back around the second bow corner and get the rail heading back to the transom.
- Repeat the installation on the second side starting at the bow and install a few screws then stretch the rail along the hull. Pull and install the screws at the back of the boat. You may want to heat and straighten the rail before installing those screws.
- Pull out and up to get rail on deck edge and tape in place, drill and screw in rail.
- For transom: heat and straighten a long piece of the leftover section. Cut two pieces leaving enough to trim the ends later. Miter cut the side and back rub rail with a hacksaw to mate pieces together. Take your time fitting the ends together before stating to drill and screw in the rail. Trim to length before installing the transom pieces.
- You can sand and polish the corners to make them look and feel better.

I hope this helps with your installation. Please let me know if you have questions. If you have more tips of thoughts on these instructions, please let me know and we will update these instructions.

Thomas Allen

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