

Vinyl Boat Seat Repair



We are a Custom Marine Canvas and Vinyl Shop that does Marine Upholstery / Watercraft Seats revinyl work and repair during the fall and winter months only. Our typical customer comes to us for exceptional custom products and comprehensive customer service, all provided at a fair rate. We can put as much detail and time into this work as you are willing to pay. When repairing your vinyl seats, let us know if you want the cheapest methods available or if you want detailed work, but keep in mind that we can't do both. Oftentimes we can offer you some options to save some money on the design of your vinyl skin, but in the end we charge time & materials on every custom job. Our shop rate is \$85/hour. We do charge for the time spent cleaning, drying and disassembling these cushions. When it comes to restoring your boat, we recommend that you stop and talk to us – our advice is always free. We do this for a living so we have a lot of experience and resources.

Re-skin a Basic Medium Pontoon Bottom Cushion (2 yards of vinyl) will cost minimum \$300.

- ½ hr Disassemble the cushion (pull staples, hardware and backing)
- 1 Pattern (mark, de-seam and pattern)
- ¾ hr Cut pattern and Sew
- 1 hr Reassemble (re-staple with Stainless Steel Staples, attach hardware, use steam/heat to tighten)
- Material Costs; \$30 - \$40 per yard (combo of (Vinyl with padding, premium thread and Stainless Steel Staples). *This would be a perfect scenario – with perfect Wood, Foam and Hardware

Repair and Details beyond a re-skin of a Basic Cushion will increase the cost.

- Detail Work: Top Stitching, Piping, Hidem Welt, Stripes, Back Work, etc, all cost extra in time and materials. *Rotten Vinyl that is so gone that it can't be patterned is extra as well.
- Extra Colors: Every extra color costs a minimum of \$30 per yard per color because that is how we have to order it. The minimum order of Vinyl from any Supplier is one yard, so a 1 yard 36" x 54" piece is the same as a 15" x 45" piece.
- Wood Repair: Marine Grade Plywood is pricey at \$160 a sheet delivered to us. A medium cushion might use \$50 of wood plus another 1 – 2 hours to repair.
- Hardware Repair: (Hinges and T-Nuts); T-Nuts cost \$1.50 per but they take time to grind off and replace so add around ¼ hour to do that.
- Foam Repair: Marine Grade Foam is twice the price of the vinyl skin at about \$60 per ½ sheet (2'x6') and takes around 1 hour to pattern cut and install.
*Foam and Wood repair can double the price of a cushion's repair costs. Carpenters are not cheap and neither are Marine Grade materials. We recommend replacing the vinyl skins before the items they protect become damaged as well. *Feel free to do this of work yourself if you are looking to save money.*

Boat upholstery is very labor-intensive work. Each cushion requires all staples to be pulled, each part of the cushion to be steamed flat and patterned, then sewn into a skin and reinstalled on the cushion. Often times these seats come to us filled with dirt, water, mold, rust, rot, and even dead animals on occasion when we open them up. This industry is also facing constantly increasing cost of materials and the required labor for this type of work. Our techs have extensive knowledge and over 25 years of experience and we use only high quality materials in the making of your cushions. We understand, though, that custom work from us, or any other shop like ours, is not going in everyone's budget. We are happy to help our customers find high quality marine grade replacement seats or guide you in the right direction so you don't end up with a cheap product. But if you are looking for custom work done with high quality materials, we are happy to accomplish that for you.

Most Frequently Asked Questions



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A typical boat costs between \$3,000 to \$7,000 to re-skin while a typical pontoon cost between \$4,000 to \$7,000, depending on the size, number of colors used and amount of detail involved. The basic cushion costs between \$200 and \$500 to re-skin. A captain's chair typically costs around \$500 - \$600 to re-skin. A large Ranger back bench seat is \$1,750 or more to re-skin (skins alone cost around \$1,000 from Ranger). PWC Seats around \$375 to \$475 to re-skin (skins alone cost around \$200).

1) How much will it cost? We cannot provide that until I open that cushion and see what is inside. If you couldn't get the hinges off, its most likely because your hardware and/or wood is rusted or rotten. If have rotten, moldy, dirty seats that are full of water and/or dead animals – your cost will be much higher than just a standard simple re-skin. We will do our best to give you a general idea, but invoices are always made based on the time and materials put into the job.

2) I have a cheap boat. Can you do cheap repairs? No – we charge a fair price for the time and materials for every custom job and cushions from cheap boats are usually the most rusty, rotten, moldy ones we get that take 4x the labor and more materials (foam, wood, hardware) to repair. Again, we recommend that you replace your vinyl before your entire seat is destroyed.

3) How can I save money? You can typically save money by buying new whenever possible. Having a custom Marine Upholstery Shop rebuild your seat is going to be more than buying the mass produced made in China models. You can also pull the staples, remove the Vinyl skins, dry the item out, clean it up. Any moldy, rotten and/or wet cushions will need to be dried out and cleaned up so we can begin working on them anyway, so you can save money by doing it yourself. How much will this save? No idea – we will only charge you for the time and materials we incurred to do the job.

4) Is storing cushions over the winter free? For you, yes (as long as you pay your invoice within 30 days of job completion) but for us it is not. We pay over \$1,200 a winter just to store the cushions that we work on over one winter. This is a cost of doing business in Northern Wisconsin along with snow removal and de-icing. However, we do offer free storage to our customers that pay the invoice within 30 days, so the labor and material costs are covered allowing us to pay our storage fees as we work through the winter. You can store your boat with us over the winter for a reasonable rate as well if we are working on it (just shrink wrap costs with no storage fees).

5) Can I pay in the spring? We respectfully request payment within 14-days of completion because we paid for the labor and materials costs at the time the job was done. We use a business credit card to purchase all materials. When customers do not pay their invoice to us within 30 days, we will pass on the interest costs associated with that card and a fair handling fee for storage paid. All invoices not paid within 30 days will incur a 1% interest charge per month (12% annum) along with a \$50 handling fee to cover storage for your item.

6) I'm positive my seats are in perfect condition. Will that save me money? We will not know what the inside of your seats look like until we open them. As you can see by these photos, it varies and is not always obvious by the condition of the outside vinyl. We are happy to provide pictures upon request.

