

RESOURCE

Wet Slip, Dry Storage, or Trailer: The Real Annual Cost Gap

Convenience has a price, and a wet slip usually costs meaningfully more a year than trailering once towing fuel and ramp time are counted against it.

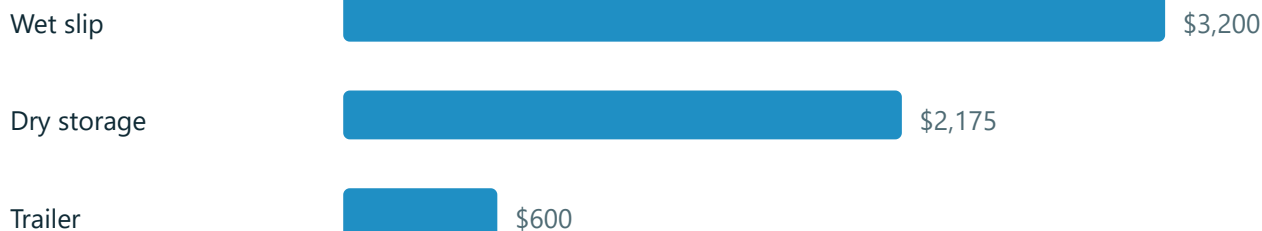
Storage is a convenience purchase, and convenience has a price

A wet slip means walking down a dock and going. Trailering means hitching up, driving to a ramp, and launching, every time. That convenience gap is real, but it's also priced: a wet slip almost always costs more per year than trailering once the slip fee itself, plus the towing fuel and ramp time trailering adds, are counted on both sides.

Try it: three storage modes, one use level

Enter an annual price and any per-use fee for three storage options. The chart shows total annual cost at your expected use days, the same per-option math [Boat Storage Mode Comparison](#) uses.

Expected use days/year Wet slip annual price (\$)
Wet slip per-use fee (\$) Dry storage annual price (\$)
Dry storage per-use fee (\$) Trailer storage annual price (\$)
Trailer per-use fee (\$)



Why the per-use fee matters as much as the sticker price

Trailer storage's low annual price hides a real per-use cost: towing fuel, ramp fees, and the time cost of launching and retrieving every trip. At high use levels, that per-use cost can close most of the gap with a wet slip; at low use levels, it barely matters. Trailered vs Slipped Boat Economics isolates that specific increment directly.

What a wet slip actually needs to be affordable

A slip's fixed annual cost has to fit alongside every other ownership cost, not be evaluated in isolation; Marina Slip Affordability checks that fit directly. And storage decisions change seasonally in a lot of climates, Winter Storage Decision covers the off-season side of the same question.

What to actually check before choosing a storage mode

- Your honest use days, since the per-use cost side of trailering and dry storage only matters at real volume.
- Whether ramp time has any real cost to you, whether that's your own time or a launch fee, not just the towing fuel.
- Whether winter storage is already included in a slip's annual price or is a separate cost most owners forget to add.
- Whether the "convenience" a slip buys actually changes how often you use the boat, since more use days shift the whole comparison.

