

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

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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.

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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

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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:

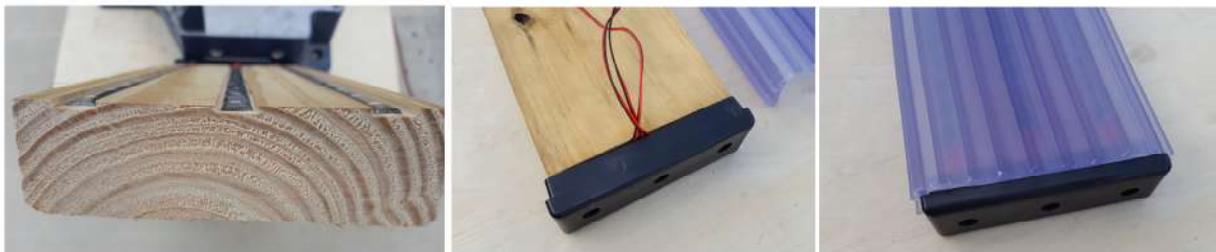
- Solid colors work best, avoid Prints or detailed aspects. If used they will be more viewable on the sides.
- Match your Bunk Colors to the trim colors on the baot to tie things together visually.
- Use water proof or exterior finishes to color your bunk boards
- Bunk boards can be left plain or “natural” 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.



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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 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.

It is important to note that Power loading and loading under power are two different applications. As a general rule, if your using small amounts of throttle or Idling to drive onto your trailer this is not defined by Gatorbak as Power Loading. Our website has a link to a recommended method for loading, please take a moment to view at your convenience. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljTaqFYcj24#t=42>