

## Measuring to Get the Right Fit for Your Bimini Boat Top

Taking three simple measurements will help you quickly and easily identify the bimini boat top that will work best for you. Follow our step-by-step directions for measuring. The diagram below outlines what the measurements represent and is followed by notes that offer tips on measuring for best results.

### How to Measure for Your Bimini Top – Step-by-Step

**Step 1 - Mark Your Mounting Point** – decide where you think you want to mount your bimini top and place a piece of masking tape where it will mount on each side of the boat. You can change your mind about the mounting point at any time in the process, just move the tape and start your measurements again.

#### Step 2 - Measure the Width –

**How to measure:** Measure from one piece of tape to the other in a straight line (don't go up and over or around obstacles.) Mark this down on the worksheet at the end of this article

#### Step 3 - Measure the Length –

**How to Measure:** The mounting point is in the center of the bimini so your top will extend half its length forward from your mounting point and half the length backward. For example, with a 6' bimini, your top will extend 3' forward and 3' behind your tape mark. You can use this technique to gauge whether a 6 or 8 foot cover will work better for you. Mark down your preferred length on the worksheet

**Things to consider:** Also check to see whether your new bimini top may conflict with your existing equipment like antennas or ski pylons. .

#### Step 4 - Measure the Height

**How to measure:** Bimini top measurements will be straight up from the mounting point. For example with a 36" bimini top, the support bows will cross the boat 36" above the mounting bracket. Mark down your preferred height on the worksheet.

**Things to Consider:** Will you have enough clearance when standing under the bimini? Will you be hitting your head? Will it block your vision over the windshield? Will it give you room to sit comfortably under the top?

#### Step 5 – Determine the Position of the Bimini Top When Stowed.

**How to measure:** Measure back towards the stern from the tape mark a distance equal to the "Folded Length" of your bimini top (see table below) This is where your bimini will lay when it is in the down position.

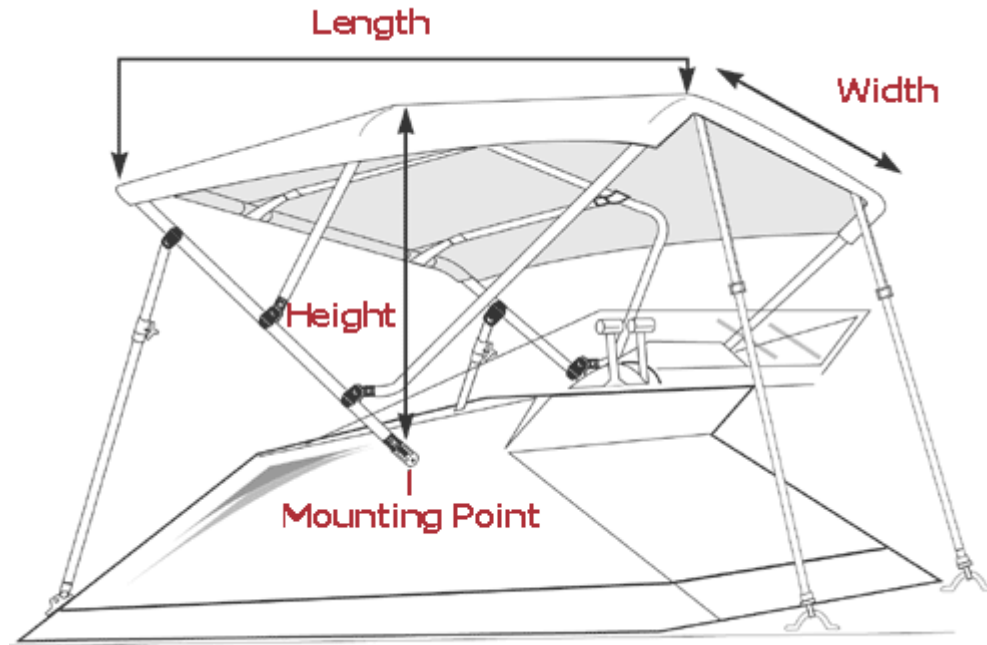
**Bimini Top Lengths when Folded**

Bimini Height	3 Bow Folded Length	4 Bow Folded Length
30"	50"	
36"	55"	
46"	65"	
48"		74"
54"	68"	80"
60"	74"	86"

**Things to Consider:** Is your bimini totally out of the way when it is stowed? If it will block access to rear seats, your swim platform or other parts of the boat, you have three options.

1. You can move the mounting point and find a place that will compromise on shade but keep the bimini out of your way when it is stowed.

- You can use a Bimini Brace system that will replace the rear tension straps and keep the Bimini up and out of the way when not in use. You can drop it flat at the end of the day when you put your boat away and put a cover on.
- You can add a Bimini Slide system that allows you to slide the mounting point forward to the optimal position when the bimini is up, then slide it backward to the optimal position when it is stowed.



**Width:** This is the most critical measurement for getting the right fit on your boat. Determine the width of the top: Measure from mounting point (where top attaches) on one side of the boat to the same location on the opposite side of the boat. (Note this is **not** the same as the beam or width of the boat) Carver bimini tops come with a universal hinge that can be mounted on a horizontal, vertical or slanted surface.

Our boat top frames have about 5-6" of adjustment, so just select the width band that contains your measurement.

**Height:** From mounting location (where the top will attach) measure straight up with a tape measure for the correct top height. Choose 30", 36", 46", 54" or 60". Make sure the height you select will give you enough head room. Your clearance will be the height from the deck to the point you mount the main hinge, plus the height of the bimini you select.

#### Popular Bimini Top Heights by Boat Style

30"-36" Bimini Boat Top	46" Bimini Boat Top	54"-60" Bimini Boat Top
Ski Boats Performance Boats Bowriders Runabouts	Aluminum Fishing Bass Boats Bay Boats Bowriders Cruisers	Deck Boats Inflatables Jon Boats Runabouts Tri-Hulls
		Bay Boats Center Console Cruisers Deck Boats Pontoon Boats

**Length:** Determine length of top, either 6 ft. or 8 ft. (from front bow to rear bow).

6' Tops are the most popular length. These will extend 3 feet forward and 3' behind the point where the main hinge is mounted.

8' Tops offer a larger shade area and are popular for larger boats or instances where you want more shade. They will typically cover 4 feet forward and 4' behind the hinge mount point.

If you are measuring to match an existing bimini top, fully extend the top and measure from the front bow to the rear bow. Don't measure the cover as some will have extra flaps etc.

## **Bimini Measurement Worksheet**

**Bimini Top Width:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bimini Top Length:**    6'       8'

**Bimini Top Height:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes or Questions?**

SavvyBoater.com Bimini Tops Section:

<http://www.savvyboater.com/c-77-bimini-tops.aspx>