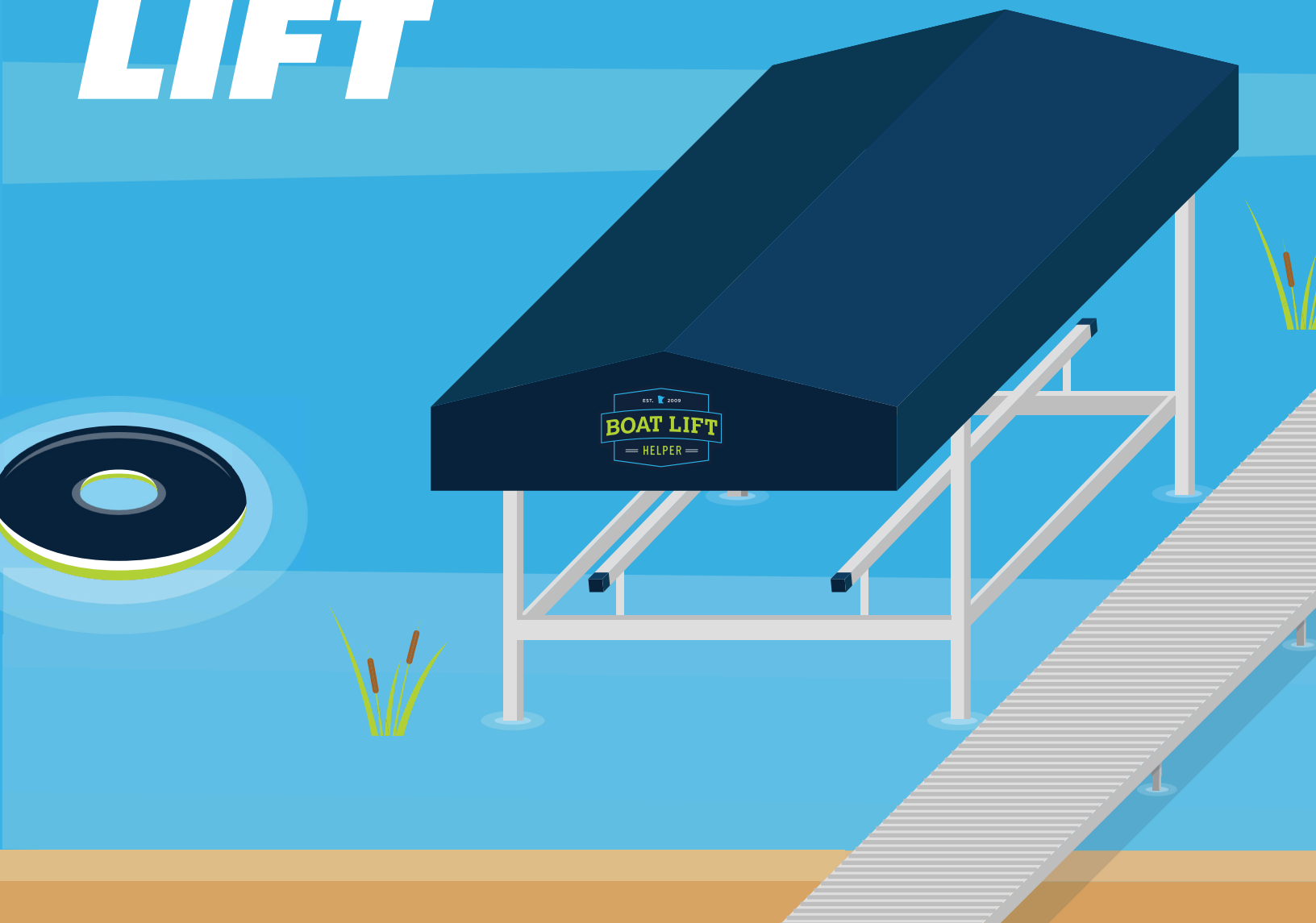
BOAT LIFT HELPER

OWNER'S MANUAL

HOW TO FLOAT YOUR LIFT



9 REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPER FLOTATION

ATTENTION

DANGER: The lift can tip over by not properly following the Assembly Guide and by disregarding the Safety Warning Guide on Page 10.

1 ADULTS REQUIRED

Always have minimum 2 adults handling the lift while operating. Best practice 3 adults, 2 adults hold each side corner and 1 operating the inflator.

2 OFFSET AIRBAGS TO THE HEAVIER SIDE

Offsetting both bags toward the heavier side is critical. See Assembly Guide - Pre Assembly Stability section for notes on bag positioning.

Test the balance on land or in the shallow parts of the water. If the lift leans toward one side, deflate the bags and adjust accordingly or counterweight may be needed to optimize stability. See Assembly Guide - Pre Assembly Stability section for more details.

3 REMOVE ANY BATTERIES

Batteries will make the lift unbalanced and unstable.

4 WEATHER CONDITIONS

Never operate on a windy day, operate on a calm day.

5 CRADLE POSITION GUIDELINES

Follow guidelines for the boat lift cradle positioning.

Vertical lifts: cradle in the lowest position.
Cantilever lifts: cradle in the highest position.
Hydraulic lifts: cradle in the lowest position.

6 STAND ON THE DOCK

Never stand in the water next to a floating lift, never tow a lift across open water, always stand on a dock or higher structure. The high leverage will immensely help with stability.

7 GUIDE LIFT AS IT RISES

The lift may rise with force and may rise unlevel, if the lift is unlevel, actions may be needed such as lifting up or pushing down on one side of the lift to help maintain stability and obtain a controllable level position.

You must always hold onto the lift with both hands.

8 ONE AIRBAG AT A TIME

Always inflate and deflate the bags one at a time before starting second bag. Heavy end of the lift first.

Do not switch between bags when inflating/deflating. Do not inflate/deflate both bags at once.

9 FILL AIRBAGS UNTIL THEY FEEL HARD

When inflating, after bag rises to the surface of the water, continue to inflate until the bag feels HARD. Then proceed to second bag, again, as it rises to the surface continue to inflate until bag looks HARD.

Minimum 3 PSI. Underinflated bags can cause the air to shift to the lighter side and can create stability issues.

Read this entire manual before installation and use of this flotation system.
Failure to follow these instruction could result in property damage, bodily injury, or even death.

HOW TO USE THE VALVE ASSEMBLY

WHAT TO USE TO INFLATE

Inflating the Boat Lift Helper system requires 3 PSI. The 3-way valve assembly has a relief valve which will relieve any air pressure just over 3 PSI. Some air seepage from the airbags is normal.

ELECTRIC PUMPS

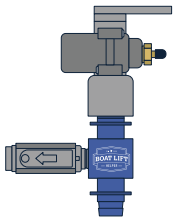
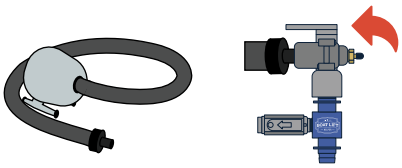
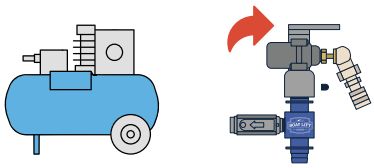
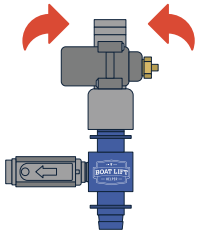
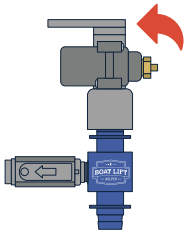
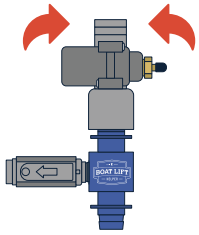
If using an electric pump, make certain it can reach 3 PSI. In most cases a vacuum pump, small air mattress pump, or a small 12v pump will not work as they cannot reach 3PSI.

The 3.6PSI 120v pump that we sell works very well in most situations. It is light weight, portable and very quick to inflate. See Accessories List.

AIR COMPRESSORS

An air compressor can be used to inflate the airbags.
A small pancake air compressor can work but might be very slow at inflating. Larger compressors typically work better than smaller.

WHAT DIRECTION TO TURN THE LEVER

Before Use	2 Ways to Inflate	
	1 **INFLATOR** Must be able to reach 3 PSI 	2 **AIR COMPRESSOR** 
Remove clear plugs prior to operating the system. Save them for after use.	Insert nozzle into large empty/open outlet, turn lever to LEFT.	Unscrew black cap, press air compressor chuck over brass stem, turn lever to RIGHT.
Hold Air While Floating	**To Deflate**	**After Use**
		
Turn the lever to the CENTER to stop any air flow.	Turn the lever to the LEFT towards the empty/open outlet.	Turn the lever to the CENTER and reinsert clear plugs.

SPRING INSTALL

INFLATING

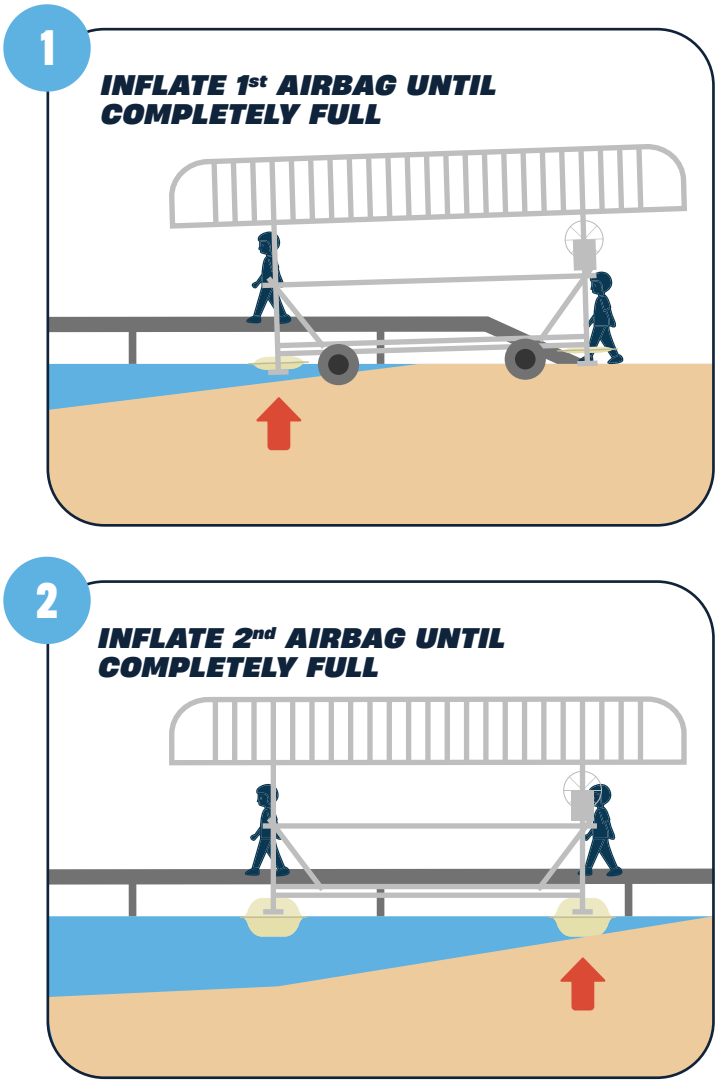
• Refer to the ASSEMBLY GUIDE for instructions on offsetting the bags and stability.

• Once the lift is in deep enough water, start by inflating the one airbag that is in the water. Make certain that each adult has 2 hands on the lift.

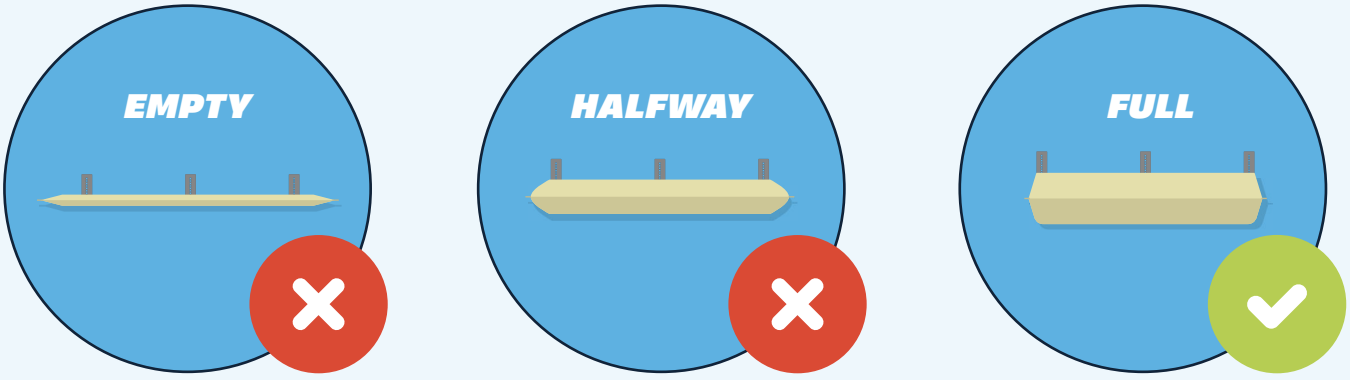
• As the first airbag rises, the lift may rise unlevel, if the lift is unlevel, actions may be needed such as lifting up or pushing down on one side of the lift to help maintain stability and obtain a controllable level position.

• Continue inflating the first airbag until it feels FIRM (min. 3P.S.I.). This will help to maintain stability of the lift. Underinflated bags can create stability issues as the air shifts from one end to the other.

• After the first airbag is fully inflated, then repeat the above steps on the second airbag. Again, continue to inflate the bag until it is full.



PROPER BAG INFLATION

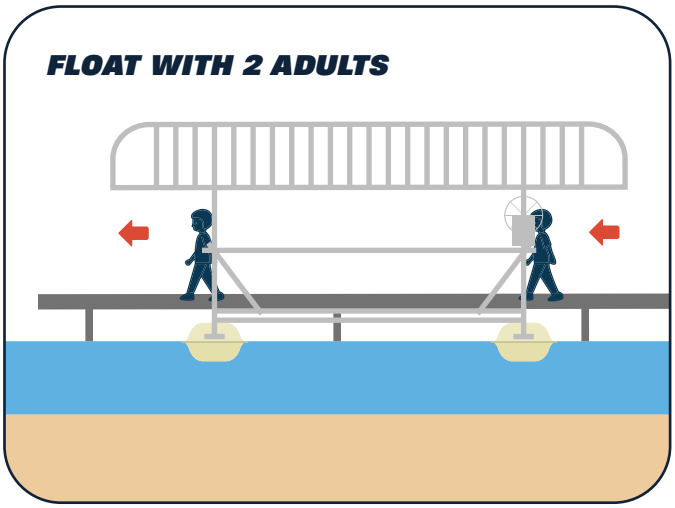


As it comes out of the box. Very flat.

Still soft, flatter, wrinkly.

Firm, hard, rounded, ends of bags are pulled in.

FLOATING



• When floating the lift into position, make certain that each adult has 2 hands on the lift.

• Do not move the lift on a windy day.

• Make sure the boat lift cradle is in the appropriate location.

• Always walk on a dock or other higher structure for better stability.

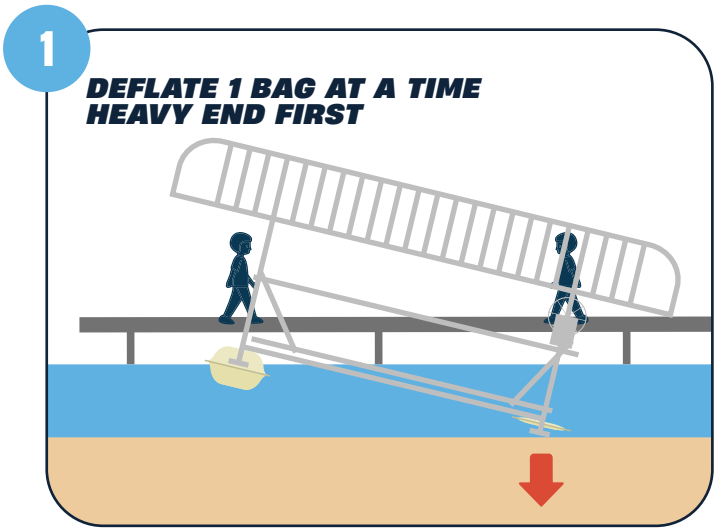
• Do not float across a lake or behind a boat.

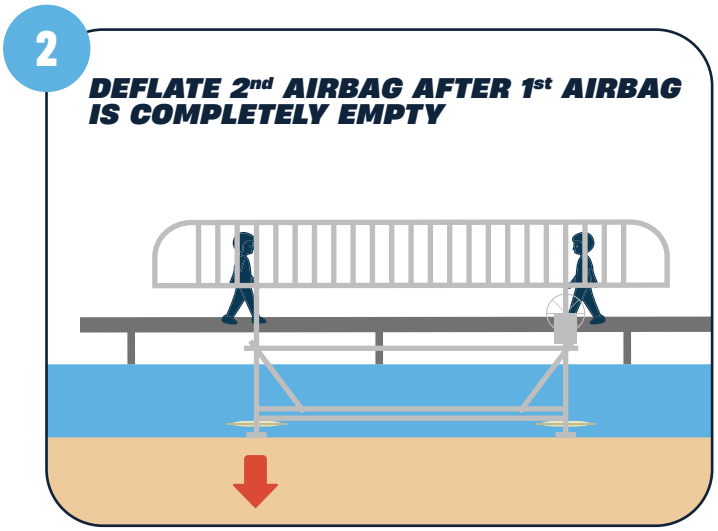
• Stability/Balance - Repositioning the bags, adding counterweight, or adding our Buddy Bag may be required for proper balance. See Accessories List.

SPRING NOTES

• Distorted bags underwater is not uncommon
• Bubbles may arise near the L-brackets where 2 pieces of material meet.
• Bags must be submerged under the water or else animals could eat it above water levels
• If water lever is very low, be mindful your boat propeller does not curl the bag up. We make a Stop Brace to prevent the bag from curling up. See Accessories List.

DEFLATING





• When the lift is positioned in the chosen location, FULLY DEFLATE the ONE airbag that is on the end with the extra weight from the winch/wheel /motor. Deflate until the lift legs on that end are resting on the lake bottom. This will help to maintain stability of the lift.

• After the FIRST BAG is fully deflated, then deflate the second airbag (shore side bag).

• Never deflate both bags at the same time.

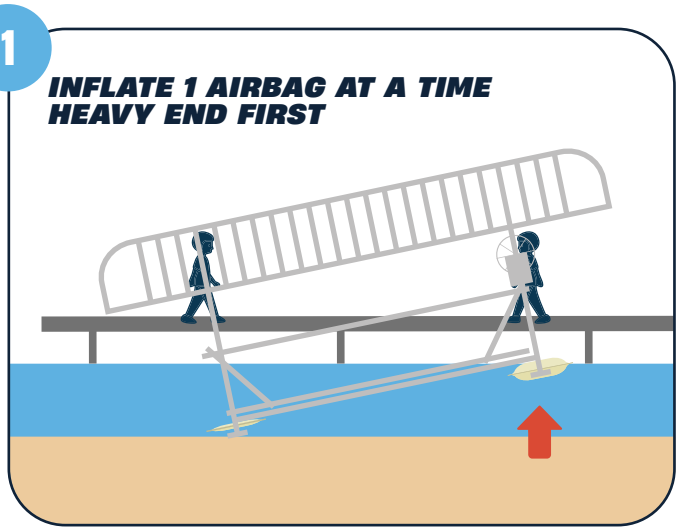
FALL REMOVAL

Also for mid-season adjustments

FALL INFLATION

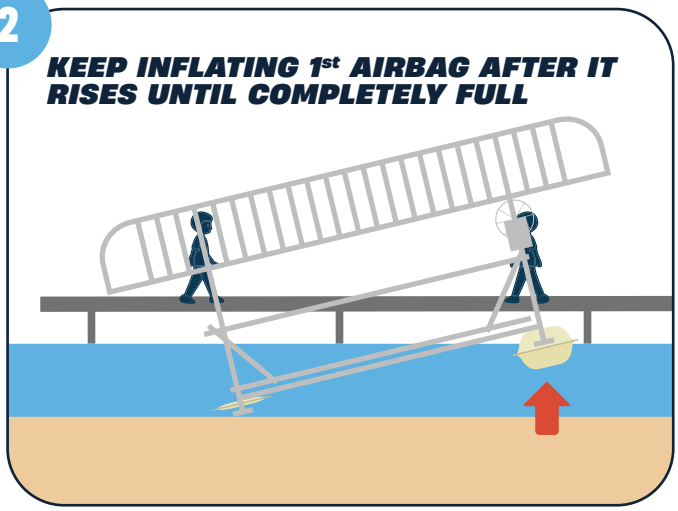
1

INFLATE 1 AIRBAG AT A TIME HEAVY END FIRST



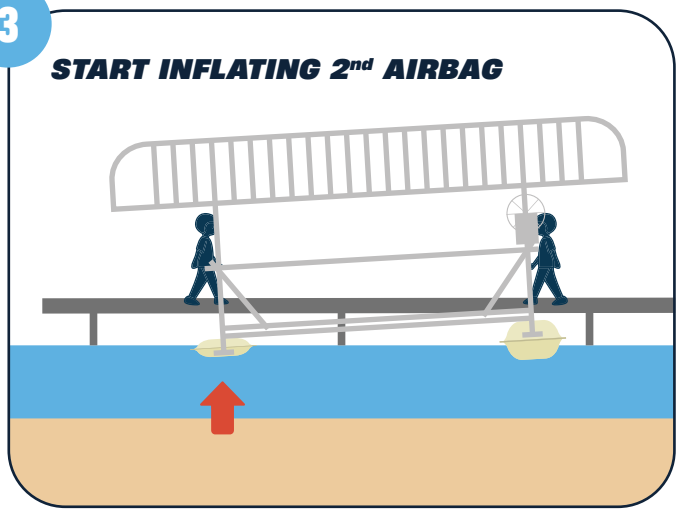
2

KEEP INFLATING 1st AIRBAG AFTER IT RISES UNTIL COMPLETELY FULL



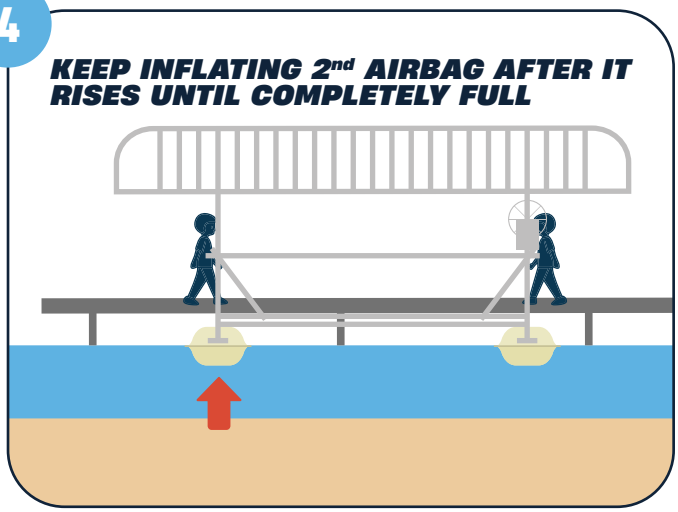
3

START INFLATING 2nd AIRBAG



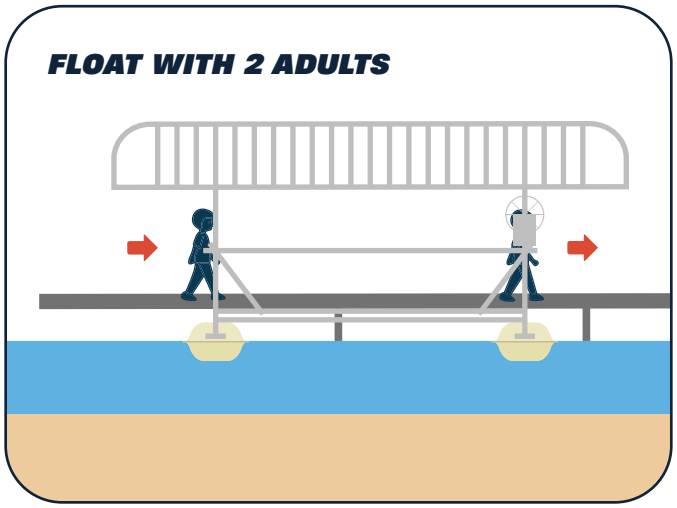
4

KEEP INFLATING 2nd AIRBAG AFTER IT RISES UNTIL COMPLETELY FULL



- Always stand on the dock for leverage, never stand in the water.
- Make certain that each adult has 2 hands on the lift.
- Start by inflating the one airbag closest to the heavy corner of the winch/wheel/motor. Water in the boat lift beams and/or mud on the pads may create instability as the lift rises out of the water.
- When inflating, the lift may rise with force and may rise unlevel, if the lift is unlevel, actions may be needed such as lifting up or pushing down on one side of the lift to help maintain stability and obtain a controllable level position.
- When it rises to the surface continue inflating that airbag until it appears FIRM (min. 3 P.S.I.). This will help to maintain stability of the lift. Underinflated bags can create stability issues as the air shifts from one end to the other.
- After the first airbag is fully inflated, then repeat the steps on the second airbag. Again, continue to inflate the second bag after it rises until it is full.
- Some water may discharge out of the valve assembly from loose fittings or condensation in the bags.

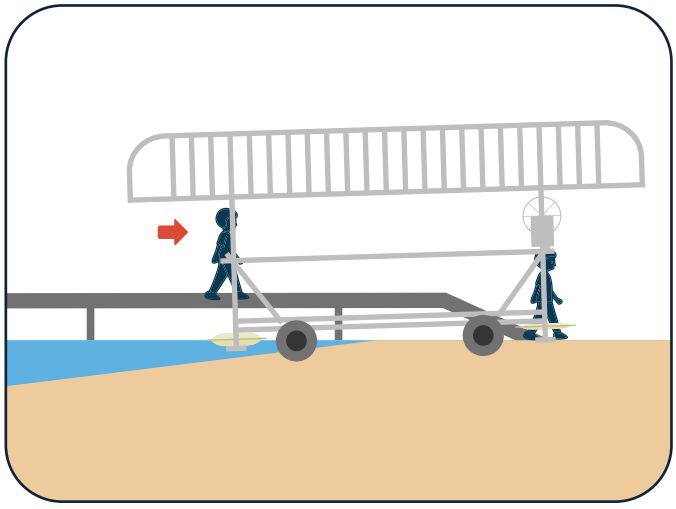
FALL MOVING



- When floating the lift, make certain that each adult has 2 hands on the lift.
- Check the boat lift cradle is in the appropriate location.
- Always walk on a dock or other higher structure for better stability.
- Do not move the lift on a windy day.
- When floating the lift into shore, make sure to avoid sharp rocks or objects that could puncture the bags. Get as close to shore as possible.
- Stability/Balance - Repositioning the airbags, adding counterweight, or adding our Buddy Bag may be required for proper balance. See Accessories List.

FALL DEFLATION

- Float into shore
- If you need to reattach wheels, (we also sell a Wheel Kit to help on land, see Accessories List) you may reattach them before you deflate the bags. The side beam that a wheel kit attaches to will be easily accessible before deflating the bags.
- When the lift is positioned near shore in the chosen location, FULLY DEFLATE the heavy end first. Deflate until the lift legs on that end are resting on the lake bottom. This will help to maintain stability of the lift.
- After the FIRST airbag is fully deflated, then deflate the second airbag.



FALL NOTES

Water in the bags is not uncommon from condensation or loose fittings.

WINTER STORAGE

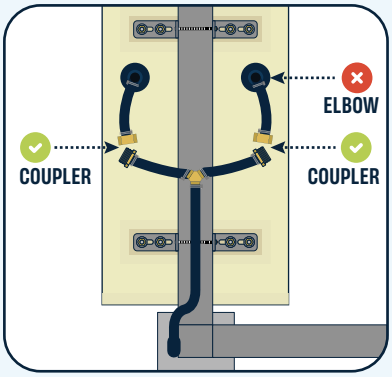
Remove the bags to prevent animals from chewing on them during the off season, this will also prevent the winter UV sun and freezing temperatures from damaging the system. We recommend that the airbags be stored indoors for the winter season (does not have to be heated).

Once the lift is on land and stored for the winter, follow these steps for the easiest removal process.
Note, if there is a rocky shoreline, the bags should be removed prior to going over the rocks.

STEP 1

COUPLER KIT

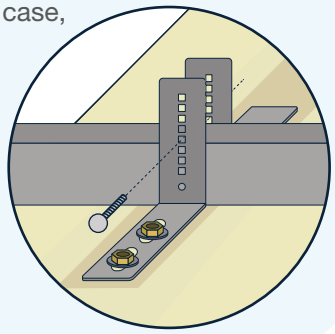
Start with the couplers, unscrew the fittings to detach the hose. Do not detach the hose from the black barbed elbow in the airbag (when cold these may become brittle and break). Cover both ends of the couplers so no debris can enter hose lines.



STEP 2

CARRIAGE BOLTS

Unfasten the three lock nuts on the carriage bolts with 7/16” wrench, then remove the bolts. The airbag, with brackets still attached, will then drop down and become free from the lift. Slide the carriage bolts back through the L-brackets and refasten the lock nuts so they don’t get lost. It may be necessary to completely remove the L-brackets to detach the bags, if that is the case, after removing the carriage bolts, use a 1/2” wrench to remove the lock nuts at the base of the L-brackets.



STORING

Store the airbags, lay flat, do not fold . Carefully inspect for any damage. Some water may get into the bags via condensation or loose fittings. Remove the water by flipping the bag upside down and folding the bag in half. The water should travel to the elbow fittings and drain the bag. Please refer any damage back to the manufacturer for further action. Replacement parts or patch kits can be purchased from the manufacturer.

MAINTENANCE

Clean the bags every 3 years via a light pressure washing.
Replace the couplers washer every 3 years.

FAQ / TROUBLESHOOTING

QUESTION	ANSWER
Why is my lift unstable?	Are both bags offset toward the heavy side? In most cases the bags need to be offset toward the heavy side to compensate for you the motor side. Some scenarios both bags will be offset as far over as possible, while other lifts the bags will only be slight offset. Adjust according to your needs. Batteries are required to be removed.
	Are the bags FULLY inflated and did you inflate 1 bag at a time and inflate it until it is hard before starting the second bag? Underinflated bags can cause stability issues. If the bags are underinflated, the air can shift inside the bag from end to end and create stability issues.
	Do you have a lot of extra weight on one side or a very long canopy? Add a 3rd smaller floatation bag for the side. See Buddy Bag in the Accessories List. Add a counterweight to the light side. We also make a Saddle Bag that can be filled with water, rock, etc. that is to be draped over the light side of the lift to act as a counter weight.
	Is your cradle in the correct position? Vertical and hydraulic lifts, cradle all the way down. Cantilever, cradle up.
	Where are you and your help standing? Do not stand in the water. Always stand on a dock or higher stable structure. The high leverage will help handling the lift.
	Don't float the lift by yourself. And do no float the lift on a windy day.
	Water or mud in the framing can offset the weight.
Why can't I get air in the bags?	Are you using a pump that can reach a minimum of 3PSI? Most small, portable eclectic pump will not reach the required PSI to inflate the bags. Our 120v 3.6PSI Pump is a great option to inflate the bags, see Accessories List.
	Is the air hose line pinched somewhere? Check hose to insure proper flow.
	Is the 3-way lever turned the correct way? See Page 3 Valve Diagram.
Why does it take so long to inflate?	Depending on size of compressor or pump, times will vary. Typically smaller air compressors are slow, larger compressors are slightly faster.
	Our pump averages less than 2 minutes per bag to fully inflate. See Accessories List.
Can my bags look distorted?	Yes, the pressure of the water will disfigure the bags when they are deflated. That is okay. If you would like to straighten the bags, lightly inflate and adjust the bags as needed.
What if I don't have power by the shoreline?	We sell a 1200w Power Inverter that can clip onto a battery. See Accessories List.
	A portable generator could be an alternative power source.
I see air bubbles in the water.	Air bubbles may occur. In the spring, you may see bubbles around the threaded studs that hold the L-brackets on, this is common and created from the air gap on top of the bag. The bubbles will dissipate.
	You may also see bubbles around the hose and fittings if a hose clamp is loose.
	In the case of a hole, bubbles will occur. See below for repair options.
Do the bags get removed at the end of the season?	Yes. We recommend to store the bags flat in a garage/shed. Primarily to prevent animals from chewing on the bags but also to protect against theft and winter elements.
	Each bag can easily be removed by removing 3 carriage bolts that are held together with brass lock nuts, followed by detaching the hose at the threaded Couplers. It should take roughly 3-5 minutes to remove the system. See video of bag removal.
I have water in my bags?	Water in the bags is not uncommon. Water may enter the bag through condensation or loose fittings.
	To remove the water, remove the bags from the lift in the fall. Tip the bags upside down and try to fold the bags in the shape of a "V". The bottom of the V being the ports to funnel the water out.
Are the bags repairable if they are punctured?	Yes. We have 3 options for you.
	1. Patch and sealant. We sell a field repairable DIY kit. This kit includes; adhesive sealant, patches, all-purpose cleaner, hand roller, scouring pad, and a repair guide.
	2. Hot air gun repair. This method requires you to have and know how to use a hot air gun and a hand roller. With a patch piece of material and the hot air gun and roller, you can melt the two materials together to create the repair.
	3. We fix, you ship. If the damage is covered under warranty there is no charge for the repair within the 3 year warranty period. After the 3 years or if not covered under warranty there will be a repair charge. Customer covers shipping both ways.
Need new parts?	Contact the manufacturer directly at www.boatlifthelper.com or 763-498-7543. Ask for the Replacement Parts Cost PDF.
How long should this system last?	The membrane used for the airbags is a military grade material that has a very high abrasion rate and puncture rate. We put quality top of mind while manufacturing this complete system. As for longevity, we have been testing and using our very first system since 2009 with no signs of deterioration. We expect many more years of use.

WARRANTY

This limited warranty is extended by the manufacturer, Boat Lift Helper, 9205 County Road 19, Corcoran, Minnesota 55357 to the original purchaser and may not be assigned or transferred to subsequent owners. This Warranty applies only to Boat Lift Helper purchased and installed in the US and Canada. Show Boat Lift Helper a dated proof of delivery (copy of original purchase receipt) when submitting a claim. The purchaser agrees and acknowledges that this Warranty agreement constitutes an executory contract.

Under this Warranty, the Boat Lift Helper has a three (3) year limited warranty, from the date of the original purchase, against manufacturer's defects. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, Boat Lift Helper will furnish replacement for parts found by Boat Lift Helper to be defective in design, manufacture or workmanship.

A WHAT IS NOT COVERED UNDER THIS WARRANTY

1.) Any failure or damage of the components that results from negligence, misuse, accident, improper installation, is not covered by this Warranty.
- Normal wear and tear
- Freight damage (freight claim must be filed to cover shipping damage)
- Damage while in storage (freeze or other damage)
- Repairable cuts, punctures, or tears due to external forces
- Damage caused by sharp object when opening boxed product
- Damage to internal workings from sand or debris
- Damage caused by dragging product
- Damage caused by exceeding the maximum weight and/ or user capacity
- Damage caused by the boat lift cradle/frame or the boat itself and propeller
- UV Damage without proper treatment (material breakdown, fading)
- Damage, or failure due to over-inflation
- Vandalism or intended damage
- Product failure due to force majeure, acts of God, or inclement weather
- Improper maintenance and/or cleaning
- Damage caused by animals or plants including marine growth
- Damage caused by chemicals or poor water quality

2.) Labor charges connected with installation of replacement parts are not covered by this Warranty.

3.) Freight expenses to and from Boat Lift Helper in shipping damaged or replacement parts are not covered by this Warranty and must be paid by the purchaser.

B GENERAL PROVISIONS AND LIMITATIONS

1.) THE WARRANTY GRANTED HEREIN IS THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR THE PURCHASER. BOAT LIFT HELPER MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTIES TO THE PURCHASER, EXPRESS, STATUTORY, IMPLIED OR OTHERWISE AND ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATIONS, IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED.

2.) TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, BOAT LIFT HELPER SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY TO THE PURCHASER OR ANY OTHER PERSON FOR INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, INDIRECT OR SIMILAR DAMAGES OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHATSOEVER, WHETHER ARISING OUT OF BREACH OF WARRANTY OR OTHER BREACH OF CONTRACT, NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER TORT, OR OTHERWISE, EVEN IF BOAT LIFT HELPER SHALL HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OR LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH POTENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE. IN NO EVENT SHALL BOAT LIFT HELPER BE LIABLE FOR LOSS OF PROFITS AND/OR WAGES.

*THERE IS A 20% RESTOCKING FEE FOR UNUSED KITS RETURNED (FREIGHT PREPAID).
CREDIT LESS THE COST OF INITIAL SHIPMENT AND HANDLING.

If a system needs repairing within the 3 years, cost will be evaluated, customer pays shipping both ways.

SAFETY WARNINGS

READ ALL SAFETY WARNINGS AND ALL INSTRUCTIONS.
Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in injuries or death.

THE LIFT CAN TIP OVER BY NOT PROPERLY FOLLOWING THE ASSEMBLY GUIDE AND THE OWNER'S MANUAL

Always have a minimum 2 adults handing the lift while operating. Best practice is 3 adults, 2 handling the lift and 1 handling the inflator in case of; changing wind, balance, water conditions, or any unforeseen problems that may arise during operation.

- Do not install the system unless a dock or other high stable structure is in the water to walk on to get higher leverage on the lift.
- Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating the Boat Lift Helper system. Do not use the system while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication. A moment of inattention while operating the system may result in serious personal injury.
- Do not install or raise boat lift when wind, waves, or current may interfere with safe control of the floating lift.
- Do not drag airbags across the ground, damage may occur as a result.
- Do not inflate the airbags or move the boat lift with the lift canopy installed, it may work as a sail if the wind suddenly increases. Only operate system on a calm day.
- Do not inflate the airbags with the boat on the lift. This will cause damage to the air bags, lift, or boat and may cause harm to the operator.
- Do not tow or move a floated lift over open water or float the lift to a different location on the lake.
- Do not use a ladder or unstable support. Stable footing on a solid surface enables better control in unexpected situations.
- Do not climb on the floating boat lift or use the Boat Lift Helper as a flotation or personal safety device.
- Do not attempt to lift more than the recommend weight for the airbags (800 lbs. maximum per pair with the 6ft system, 900lb for 7ft system, 1,000lb for 8ft system).
- Do not attempt to modify this system or create accessories not recommended for use. Any such alterations or modifications is misuse and could result in a hazardous condition leading to possible serious personal injury.
- Attachment of the airbags should be at the front (bow) and rear (stern) of the lift to provide optimum stability. Position the airbags left or right to balance off center items such as the crank.
- Do not have heavy accessories on the boat lift (such as batteries, etc.) until the lift has been moved into position and the airbags have been deflated as they may make the lift weight distribution severely unbalanced.
- Water in the lift's beams or mud on the pads when re-floating your airbags may create instability as the lift rises.
- Do not run boat propeller while boat is in the boat lift.
- For security, tether the boat lift to a dock in case wind or water conditions should change. Failure to secure the lift could cause a lack of control over the floating lift.
- Do not use an impact driver to tighten the lock nuts.
- Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions.
- Do not allow familiarity with the system to make you careless. Remember that a careless fraction of a second is sufficient to inflict serious injury.
- Each system may be +/- 1" from the stated length.
- NOT designed for large bodies of water, unless in a protected bay. Examples: Mille Lacs Lake, MN. Lake Winnebago, WI. Lake Oneida, NY. Lake Nipissing, Lake Simcoe, ON or any of the Great Lakes.
- Not designed for lifts with canopy over 30ft
- After placing your lift in the water, start by inflating one airbag. When it rises to the surface continue inflating until it appears FIRM (Min. 3 P.S.I.) Repeat on the second bag. This will help to maintain stability of the lift.
- When the lift is positioned in the chosen location, FULLY deflate one airbag until the lift legs on that side are resting on the lake bottom before you begin to deflate the second bag. This will help to maintain stability to the lift. Test lift to ensure it has settled firm to the bottom.
- When removing/moving your lift, start by inflating one airbag. When it rises to the surface continue inflating until it appears FIRM (Min. 3 P.S.I.) Repeat on the second bag. This will help to maintain stability of the lift.
- As the boat lift begins to rise, stand clear of the lifting path and avoid being positioned between the lift and dock. Injury could result from unexpected movement.
- Electrical Shock Hazard - Use of electric powered tools near water, in damp areas and on metal docks is inherently dangerous. Extreme caution is recommended in use of powered tools like air pumps near the water.
- SAFETY WARNING: Not following instructions or observing safety warnings could result in property damage, severe personal injury, or even death.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.

Boat Lift Helper
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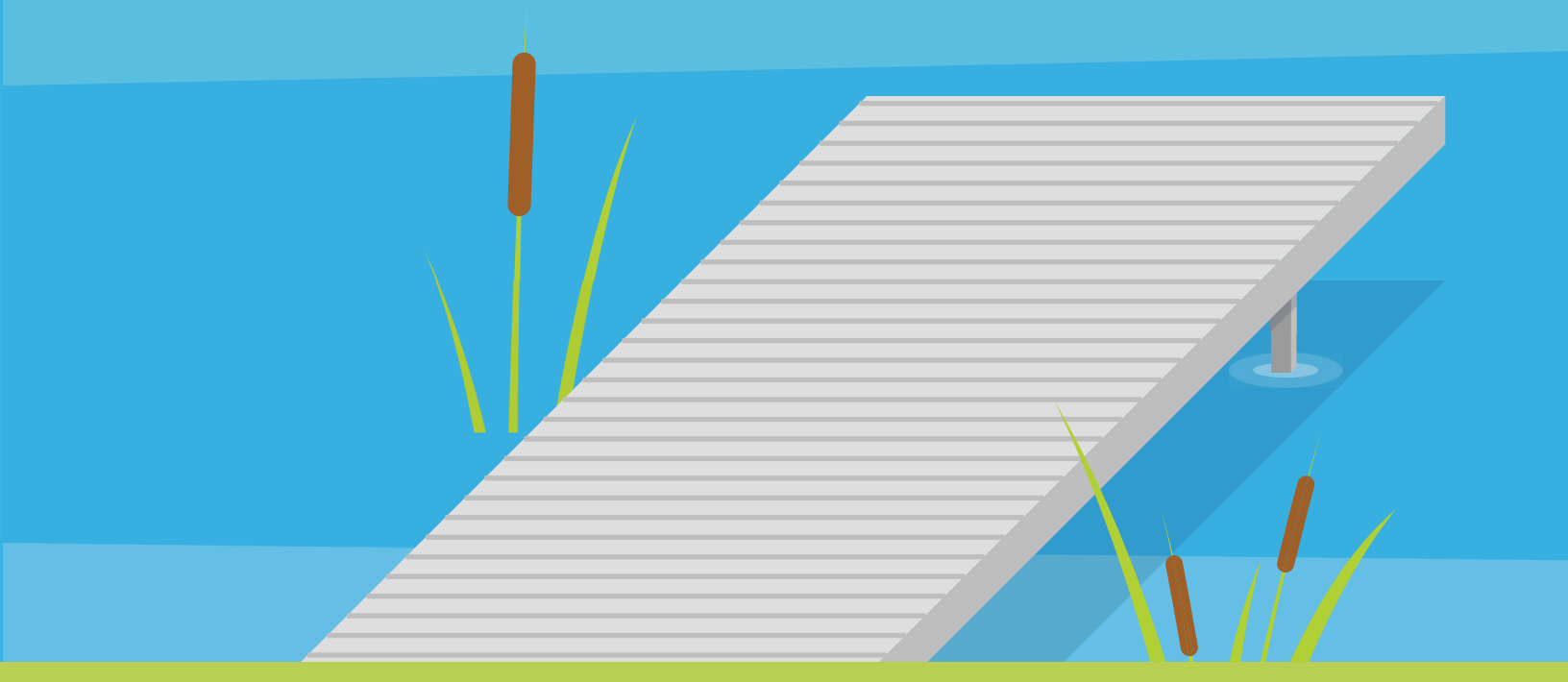
p: 763.498.7543
e: donnie@boatlifthelper.com

MADE IN THE USA

MADE IN MINNESOTA



EST. 2009 BOAT LIFT HELPER

US Patent 8123433
Canada Patent CA2676931

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