

## Additional Reasons Experts and Owners Prefer Sterndrives

- Jet boats are twice as loud at 30 mph (50 km/h).
- Jet boats can suck up weeds, sand, and foreign objects in shallow water, damaging the impeller.
- Sterndrives were developed specifically for boats; jet engines are a secondary adaptation of PWC technology.
- Jets work harder and run at a higher rpm than sterndrives during a normal duty cycle, impacting durability and engine life.

*See For  
Yourself*



# 4 REASONS TO STEER AWAY FROM JET BOATS



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**Ideas that look good on paper  
don't always work well on the water.**

At first glance, jet boats look like a good thing. They're quick and fun, and seem like a good value. But when it comes to actual performance, first-time drivers are often dismayed. Jet boats fall short of sterndrives when it comes to pulling skiers, tubers, and wakeboarders. And rough water can turn a trip on a jet boat into a nightmare.



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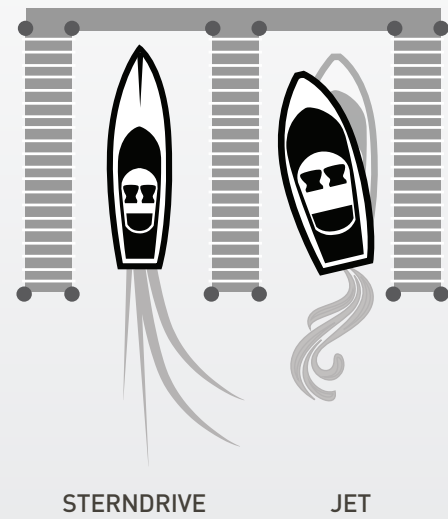
## No. 1

### Jets Are Harder to Steer

Sterndrives have rudders. Jet boats don't. Jet boats are steered by thrust from a "jet" of water expelled from the drive. As thrust decreases, so does directional control, which makes low-speed maneuvering – into a slip or around other boats – difficult and frustrating.

Piloting a jet boat in reverse is even more challenging. With no rudder and no true neutral gear, simply backing off a trailer into the water can be tricky. That also applies to re-trailering the boat.

Instinctive responses can make emergency situations on a jet boat worse. A driver facing a possible collision with another boat (or anchored object) typically lets up on the throttle first, then steers clear. Do that in a jet boat, however, and you've essentially forfeited directional control. Loss of speed equals loss of maneuverability.



Sterndrives have better low-speed maneuverability than jet boats.

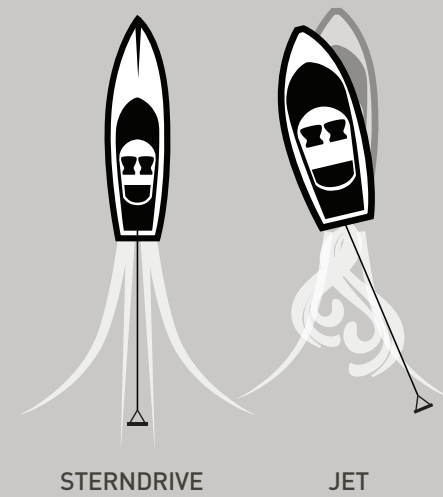
## No. 2

### Jets Are an Inferior Power Source for Tow Sports

Sterndrives produce a clearly defined wake that's ideal for skiers and wakeboarders. Jet boats, however, produce turbulent wakes full of "wash" – disturbed, aerated water expelled from the jet nozzle. Twin-jet boats are even worse, creating large turbulent wakes that shut down the fun.

Without a rudder, jet boats can be pulled off course by a strong tug from a skier or wakeboarder. With the tail wagging the dog, the driver must make constant corrections to keep the boat headed in the desired direction.

Jets deliver less torque than sterndrives, which translates into decreased performance. As the number of people onboard and the number of people being towed increases, the more performance suffers.



Sterndrives create a smooth wake and resist being pulled off course, unlike jet boats.

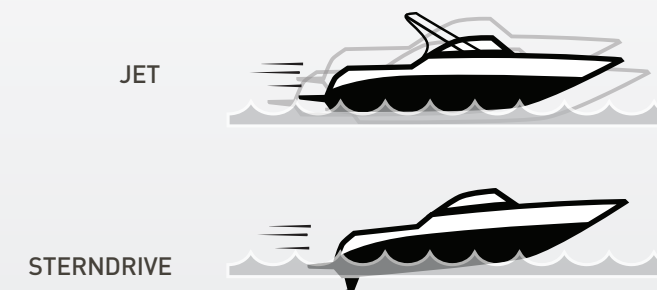
## No. 3

### Jets Deliver Poor Ride Quality

Sterndrive boats handle rough water better than jet boats. The traditional sturdy Deep-V hull of a sterndrive sits lower in the water to better slice through chop, providing a more comfortable ride. Jets sit high in the water, which can produce bumpy rides in rough seas.

Sterndrive boats also allow the driver to "trim" or lift the bow of the boat – even in rough water – to provide better control of the ride conditions. It also maximizes fuel and power efficiency.

Jet boats can't be trimmed, exposing passengers to uncomfortable conditions. Boat trips that begin in perfect weather don't always end that way. When rough weather comes out of nowhere, the ride back on a jet boat can be miserable.



Sterndrives cut smoothly through chop; jet boats ride higher and rougher.

## No. 4

### Jets Lose on Fuel Efficiency and Top Speed

Jet boats are quick off the starting line but can't compete with sterndrives on fuel efficiency and top speed. Thanks largely to the ability to trim a sterndrive, which allows the boat hull to function most efficiently, sterndrives consistently outperform jet boats in both categories.

When *Boating* magazine compared a Sea-Doo 210 Challenger S with a 255 hp supercharged high-output jet drive to a 19-foot sport boat with a 220 hp MerCruiser sterndrive, the MerCruiser engine used far less gas at mid-range and high speed.

#### Speed and Efficiency: MerCruiser® Sterndrive vs. Jets\*



##### FUEL USAGE (GALLONS PER HOUR)

###### Cruising Speed

MerCruiser 4.7 gph (17.8 lph)

Jet 8.2 gph (31 lph)

###### High Speed

MerCruiser 11.1 gph (42 lph)

Jet 19.6 gph (74.2 lph)



##### RANGE

MerCruiser 146 miles (235 km)

Jet 117 miles (188 km)



##### TOP SPEED

MerCruiser 51.4 mph (82.7 km/h)

Jet 43.7 mph (70.3 km/h)