

SPORT FISHING

BOATS

Offshore Fishing Boats with Side-Entry Design

Newest family-friendly trend comes standard on some models.

By [Chris Woodward](#) Posted January 15, 2016



Courtesy of Grady-White Boats

Grady-White 375 Freedom



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Grady-White's dive door is made using mold inserts instead of by cutting structure; the latter could weaken the hull's integrity.

"We decided to offer the side door [in 2012] because of customer requests," says Shelley Tubaugh, [Grady-White's](#) vice president of marketing. "And we're all about incorporating customer wish lists into our products."

Grady originally designed the door for its 335 Freedom model, which was the company's largest dual-console until the 375 debuted in 2013. Because any breach in a hull is serious business, Tubaugh says, Grady took great care in creating the safest design possible.

"One of the most important features of our side door is the fact that it's made using mold inserts instead of cutting away structure, which can weaken the integrity of the boat," she says. "The door opening is formed during the initial creation process of the hull and deck, so it's specially designed from the beginning. Also, we use a one-piece door," which means there's no cap to flip over, "so there's one easy step to open the door."

Grady's door also opens inward, a very popular choice in today's marine industry, but one that creates tense debate among boat manufacturers. A door that opens into the cockpit can make it easier to board at a dock, but only when you're tied up to a floating dock that's a convenient height. Fixed docks often tower above a boat, particularly at low tide.

Like other builders, Grady incorporated a swim ladder into its door design. A telescoping ladder tucks into a compartment beneath one of the aft cockpit seats, next to the door. It's simple to extend the ladder and lock it into twin stanchions just inside the door.