

How are pontoons built?

Step 1: Prepare site

1. Excavate a deep work area (or basin), drive piles, and pour a concrete slab at the bottom.
2. Stabilize the sides of the basin with concrete walls and seal off the work area from open water with a gate.
3. Construct the support facilities (i.e., construction offices, cranes).

Step 2: Construct pontoons

1. Form the box-like shape of the pontoons by assembling wood forms around a steel framework.
2. Pour concrete into the forms to create the pontoon floors, walls and top slabs.

Step 3: Launch pontoons

1. Fill the basin with water once the pontoons are complete and ready to launch.
2. Open the gate and use tugboats to tow the pontoons to one or more moorage locations.
3. Drain the basin and repeat the process for other pontoons.



Pontoons are floated out of a casting basin for the Hood Canal Bridge project in August 2008.