

Back Cabin Factsheet

The Back cabin was the **living space** for the people who worked on the boat. (Some boats also had a small fore cabin.)

When Saturn worked fly with a team of up to 4 men the cabin would have been more **austere**, somewhere to eat, sleep and be out of the weather when you weren't needed to steer the boat, walk with the horse or work the locks. (No frills)

The cabin is now **presented as a family boat** and families did work these boats. In this tiny space are most of the elements of your home.

Bedroom

- The **cross bed** where the parents, slept curtains for a bit of privacy
- The **side bed** where one or two smaller children slept, probably head to toe
- A third elder child would have slept on the **floor** (older children were sometimes sent to work on other boats)
- The **bed 'ole** cupboard storage for clothing, being high up in the cabin it's drier and warmer

Dining room/kitchen

- Table cupboard becomes the **table**, storage for crocks and dry food stuffs
- Plank on bed flap grooves provides **seating** for table
- No electricity on the boat - **candle** for lighting (some boats had a small paraffin lamp on the hinged arm)
- The **bottle stove** provider of heat, hot water system (kettle) and cooker it is a more primitive arrangement than the usual small cabin ranges but is what was shown on the original working drawings for the boat
- The cupboard in the **hatches** also used for food storage, a good winter fridge
- **Cutlery** drawer

Bathroom

- Hot and cold water supply – no taps/plumbing – **kettle** always on stove constant hot water.
- The **cans** on the roof their supply of clean drinking water, there were outdoor taps at many of the locks where they could fill the cans as the boat was going through the lock
- The **handbowl** for washing (may have to explain the concept of a strip wash)
- Toilet bucket & chuck it or behind the hedge

Storage

- All **space** utilised - under the beds, pan cupboard, general purpose cupboard beside doors, soap holes within the walls
- **Ticket drawer** - place to keep their toll tickets, proving that the toll had been paid on their cargo, conveniently placed for the steerer to show it on request

Decoration

- Needed to be things you could attach to the walls, little space and to keep them **secure** in a moving boat

- **Brass** - the boat people liked brass - horse brasses probably family “heirlooms” – the brass knobs reflecting the light of the candle and the fire into the cabin
- **Lace plates** popular 1880-1930 as holiday souvenir presents, don’t take up much space in the confines of the cabin, referred to as “hanging-up plates”

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