HOW TO BUILD A WOODEN DOCK

Sturdy 3-section wooden dock
• Stationary section - 4' x 8'
• Semi-floating section - 4' x 12' (or 4' x 16')
• Floating section - 8' x 12' (or 8' x 16')

Hot-dip galvanized steel hardware
Hollow or foam-filled floats in various sizes

MATERIAL LIST

FLOATS
Your use of the dock and your boats will guide you in choosing the float model you need:
• For swimming, pedal boating, canoeing or kayaking: low free-board
• For a pontoon or large motorized boat: high free-board
To calculate the amount of floats needed (for residential use):
› Multiply the dock area (length x width) by 25 (for 25 lbs buoyancy per square foot).
› Divide this amount by the buoyancy capacity of the chosen float (ex. float R-750 has a capacity of 750 lbs) then round to the nearest even number.

Examples:
low free-board 8' x 12' = 96 π² 96 x 25 = 2400 lbs 2400 ÷ 370 = 6.4 floats so 6x the R-370 model
high free-board 8' x 12' = 96 π² 96 x 25 = 2400 lbs 2400 ÷ 750 = 3.2 floats so 4x the R-750 model
› Make sure you have enough space to install all floats under the dock.

LUMBER
See the table below for suggestions of materials and required quantities.

COMPLEMENTARY ACCESSORIES TO A COMPLETE DOCK SYSTEM:
• Bumpers and fenders
• Mooring cleats and lines
• Swimming ladders
• and more!

STATIONARY SECTION
SEMI-FLOATING SECTION
FLOATING SECTION

* A float can be installed with only 4 lag screws however the addition of a 3rd float support adds strength to the structure.
HOW TO BUILD A WOODEN DOCK IN 4 STEPS

1. Starting with corners, align the parts, mark the holes with a pencil, drill and install the hardware with the bolts. Note that parts may vary from the drawing. For a stationary dock, continue with step 4-B.

2. Reconfirm squareness (see step 1). Screw the decking starting at one end of the dock section and carefully, without hurting yourself.

3. Secure in position by temporarily screwing a board on the structure. Reconfirm squareness again. Screw the decking starting at one end of the dock section and carefully, without hurting yourself.

4. For a floating dock, before installing the decking, you will need help to flip the structure over, carefully, without hurting yourself. For the length of the chain, calculate about 4 times the depth to create the “X” shape.

HOW TO ANCHOR YOUR DOCK (STATIONARY OR FLOATING)

STATIONARY DOCK

There is no need to anchor a stationary dock unless you are in an area with strong waves. Posts driven into the ground alone will ensure stability. You should, however, anchor your boat so that it can not hit the docks. Some prefer the installation of a boat lift. In difficult conditions, you can add one or more diagonal braces between the posts.

FLOATING DOCK

A floating dock system absolutely requires an anchoring system at the end of the dock and every ~30 feet. It is the anchor blocks that will keep the docks in place in waves and water movements as there are no posts. Anchoring chain retainers are required at each anchor point. To install the anchor weights, place them on the floating dock section (we suggest you put a thick cardboard or piece of wood under the blocks to protect your deck), group the appropriate amount of blocks for each corner. Attach the chain with a shackle to the block group required for a corner. Move the dock over the desired anchor area and then tilt the blocks into the water holding the end of the chain that will attach to the dock. Keep some tension on the chain, attach it to your chain retainer in the opposite corner and cut it off with 2 extra feet for adjustments during the season. Do the same steps on the opposite side.

For the length of the chain, calculate about 4 times the depth to create the “X” shape.

ANCHORING EXAMPLES IN CALM WATER AREAS:

- Small crafts, less than 15’: minimum of +/- 200 lbs per chain, on each side.
- Pleasure crafts, less than 19’ (or approx. 2500 lbs): minimum of +/- 350 lbs per chain, on each side.
- Pleasure crafts, less than +/- 23’ or +/- 4000 lbs (for ski or wakeboard boats): minimum of +/- 500 lbs per chain, on each side.
- Pontoon boat with camper roof, (that can catch in the wind): minimum of +/- 650 lbs per chain, on each side.

Make sure you always wear and use the proper protective equipment to work safely. Always use cordless power tools near water. At least 2 adults are required to build and move your dock sections.