How to Install my Dock System?

ANCHORING GUIDE:

STATIONARY DOCK:
Normally, (except in areas where big strong waves can hit the dock) it is not required to anchor the stationary dock itself. Piles being driven in the bottom of the water body will assure its stability. You should though anchor the boat with moorings in a way that it will not hit or scrape on the docks, therefore protecting the boat and the docks. Since your docks are installed in a fairly shallow area, you should be able to install the mooring easily (on a nice day...).

FLOATING DOCK:
A floating dock system absolutely needs an anchoring system at the end of it, or at every +/- 30 feet. Anchoring chain plates should be installed everywhere you plan on anchoring. To install those anchoring weights, you will lay them on the dock, group the proper amount of weights (we suggest that you put a piece of cardboard or a piece of wood under in order to protect the dock surface or decking), attach the chain and move the blocks over the proper dropping area and then drop them in the water! It is the anchoring weights that will hold the docks in place since there are no piles and that the docks are submitted to lateral pressures by the wind, waves and the boats.
Anchoring examples in a calm water plan:

- Small crafts, less than 15’, like canoes, kayaks, aluminum boats or PWC (maximum of 2 crafts): minimum of +/- 200 lbs per chain on each side.
- Pleasure crafts less than 19’ or around 2500 lbs each (maximum of 1 crafts): minimum of +/- 350 lbs per chain and on each side.
- Pleasure crafts, Ski or wakeboards boats, less than +/- 23’ or +/- 4000 lbs each, (maximum of 1 crafts): minimum of +/- 500 lbs per chain and on each side. It is also suggested to anchor the dock system at every 4 corners of the dock on which the boats are attached to (see drawing).
- Pontoon boat with camper roof, (which will have a great catch in the wind), add around 150 lbs per chain.

Type and choice of anchoring blocks:

Your local concrete products retailer will certainly have some heavy weights in stock, which could be used as anchors, or will be able to pour some with their remaining concrete. Your local hardware store will have the chain in stock. Make sure you confirm with your local regulation to confirm that you can use the concrete as anchors, otherwise replace the material.

The blocks should be of a weight of around 125 lbs each and of square shape (+/- 1’ x 1’ x 1’) in order to limit their movements once in the bottom (filling a pail is not a good idea as it will roll once on its side). A length of chain with a bolt or a knot at the end can be used as hooks (when pouring concrete blocks yourself you put them in the concrete to attach to it later).

The chain should be rated as: 5/16” galvanized, grade 30 (regular). We also suggest that you use galvanized shackle at the under water attachment, not a Zink plated Quick Link.

Also take note that the concrete will loose a third of its weight under water. It’s the reason why we suggest that much. Different types of bottom such as clay may also affect the capacity of holding of those anchors, so you should be careful. Muddy bottom usually gives a very good anchoring.
**Different type of starts:**

- Floating Docks
- Semi-Floating Docks
- Stationary Docks

- Floating deck: 10 ft. x 15 ft.
- 4 ft of water or less:
  - Fixed dock sections

- Combination Stationary, Semi-Floating and Floating
- Semi-Floating and Floating
You can consider the same type of starting method for a floating dock.

**WARNING! Dock system, moving and assembling:**

You need to be at least two wealthy strong guys (or more) to proceed to the assembling and installing of your dock sections (to save your back!).

Copyright Multinautic® 2008