

# Your Guide to Purchasing the Perfect Dock.

There are many reasons to install a private dock, whether you want to add property value to your home, create a swim platform for your family, or you need a dock for your commercial business. When shopping for a dock there are a few things you need to ask yourself. Discovering the answers to these 5 questions can help you narrow down your choices so you can shop around with less frustration.



# Where to Start

## 1. What's the water like where your future dock will be?

Consider whether you are located in a salt or freshwater environment and the depth. Will the water rise and fall dramatically? The answer to this question will help you discover the best type of material for your dock and whether it should be stationary or floating.

## 2. What's the weather like seasonally?

If your dock will be exposed to frequent storms and hurricanes, you'll need to think about durability and precautions you may need to take. If freezing water is common in the winter, you'll have to consider how easy it is to remove your dock or if it can stay year-round without worry.

## 3. Will the dock be located in a heavily trafficked area?

The answer to this question helps with sizing. Heavily trafficked areas mean you'll need a dock that fits compactly without disturbing others docking spaces.

## 4. How will you install the dock?

If you're installing the dock yourself or with a few friends, you'll want a dock that takes a couple of hours – not a couple of days – to put together. Installation complexity will also affect the cost to have a professional installer complete the job. If you can't immediately find information about installation, that may be a sign that you'll need a professional (and it might become a major expense).

## 5. How will you use your dock?

Will you use this dock for a boat or a personal watercraft (PWC)? Will this be used for a private residence or a marina slip? Do you have a family that would like to hang out on the dock for fishing or swimming? Depending on use, you may want to consider if you can buy accessories or reconfigure your space as needed.



# Your Purchase Checklist

There are a lot of features to consider before you purchase a dock. But what's most important? And how can you avoid misleading upsell tactics that will ultimately leave you disappointed? First and foremost, be sure your dock comes from a reputable manufacturer. To help you vet the product quality, look for these simple features and qualities. Purchasing a dock that checks each box will ensure you've spent your money wisely.

## Low Maintenance

Many docks start out easy to maintain, but over time the upkeep and repairs can become more expensive than your original purchase price. Don't just think about regular cleanings, but also how to prevent potential cracks and fading. Sunlight, varied temperatures, tidal action and wake from passing boats can all weaken your dock which means more repairs – or full on replacement sooner than anticipated.

## Configurability (and Reconfigurability)

Modular floating dock systems have an advantage over traditional docks because they are easily expandable and reconfigurable. Your needs might change over time and a layout that you once thought was the perfect fit may no longer serve your boat or lifestyle. Finding a system that can accommodate you as things change will save you money in the long run.

## Environmentally Friendly

One of the most common requirements when building a private dock is that you'll need to avoid damaging the local ecosystem. That means taking into consideration aquatic vegetation and any bed material you may need to clear to create a path for your dock's installment. Floating docks typically have fewer permit restrictions because they don't need to be grounded and therefore don't damage the sediment.

## Added Protection

A dock may look good in photos, but will it actually live up to its purpose? You put time and money into your boat, so you don't want your dock to be the reason it gets scratched or damaged. Most docks will require you to install buffers separately, so you'll want a supplier with a solution for safe docking built in.

## Lifetime Warranty

It doesn't matter how many features and benefits a dock offers if the manufacturer year warranties. A lifetime warranty that covers materials and workmanship means you won't have to count the years if you ever need support. Dock Blocks is the only floating dock company that offers a lifetime warranty and a 60-day money back guarantee.

## Lasting Durability

Your dock should be able to weather any storm. Even if you aren't located in an area that's often impacted by tropical weather, a durable dock is an indicator of its lifespan. The strength of the dock material is key here, not just the final product you see. Pay close attention to what your dock is made out of from start to finish.

## Customer Service

A great way to determine if you'll have buyer's remorse is based on how you're treated from the start. How quickly are your questions answered? Are there multiple ways for you to reach someone? Your manufacturer should be responsive to your needs. If they are, you know you can rely on them for your long-term docking needs. Online reviews and testimonials can be particularly useful in getting a feel for customer service before you ever get a quote.





# Fixed vs. Removable

A **fixed dock** is a stationary or permanent dock. It remains in place and is connected to the bottom of the body of water. Stationary docks are good for areas with little water disturbance, because they can't adjust to rising tides. They use pilings which drive into the ground for support. You'll then choose the type of material to place on top of the framework.

**Removable docks**, on the other hand, are typically easier to build and maintain. They also provide flexibility, although some need to be removed solely because of the change in season.

There are a few different types of **fixed** and **removable** docks.

<h2>Fixed</h2> 	<h2>Removable</h2> 
<h3>Crib Docks</h3> <p>- A permanent structure, crib docks are fairly expensive because they are custom built wooden frames.</p>	<h3>Modular Docks</h3> <p>- A modular system is easy to build, durable and rises or falls with water levels.</p>
<h3>Suspension Docks</h3> <p>- These docks hang over the water using cables. They're modern, stylish and make less of an impact on the environment.</p>	<h3>Pipe Docks</h3> <p>- Pipe docks are an option that least impacts the environment since the surface doesn't make contact with the land or water.</p>



# Quick Feature Comparison Chart

Use our comparison chart to quickly see which features are available for each dock.

	Floating Dock	Pipe Dock	Crib Dock	Suspension Dock
Low Maintenance	✓	✗	✗	✗
Lasting Durability	✓	✗	✓	✗
Added Protection	✓	✗	✓	✗
Expandability	✓	✓	✗	✗
Environmentally Friendly	✓	✓	✗	✗
Easy Installation	✓	✓	✗	✗



# Materials and Why They Matter

## Lumber

Wood is one of the most popular materials used for many docks. It looks good, is sturdy and doesn't have a high initial cost. The natural look can make for great traditional summer photos. But be aware that wooden docks require extra attention to detail and are harder to maintain.

Most owners of wooden docks must pressure wash regularly to clean off dirt and debris, and this means you'll need to routinely sand the dock to prevent guests from getting blisters or splinters. Additionally, every few years you'll need to re-seal your dock or paint the wood to protect its integrity. Applying 2 to 3 coats of sealant takes a lot of time and a lot of work.



## Composite

A combination of wood fibers and plastics, docks using composite materials are a strong alternative to wood as it lasts longer and requires less maintenance comparatively. It's an inexpensive option and doesn't require any yearly staining. However, you will need to be on alert for potential decay or mildew.



## Aluminum

A popular choice among dock owners, aluminum doesn't require much maintenance because it will not rot, decay or warp. It's a recyclable material and can be coated to look like wood. It tends to stay cooler in the sun because it reflects heat and may be a good option for those who want a permanent / fixed dock.



## HDPE

High-density polyethylene, more commonly known as HDPE, requires the least amount of yearly maintenance and usually the rain takes care of any dirt and debris. Like aluminum, there's no need to worry about splinters, cracks or rust. Another advantage that HDPE offers is its slip resistance, which makes it safer than other docking options. Dock owners who use HDPE prefer it because it has superior resistance to damage from hurricanes and extreme weather. Dock Blocks uses a unique formulation of HDPE that keeps cool and is exceptionally durable and comfortable underfoot.



# Ready for a best in class docking experience?

Only Dock Blocks offers all the features you expect from a premium dock.



## Patented Technology

Our patented connecting system offers twice the pins for unmatched stability.



## Protective Bar

The only system that includes an exterior bar to protect your boat and dock.



## Military-Grade Manufacturing

Built to military standards by an approved government contractor.



## Concierge Service

Consider us your personal docking experts — here for whatever you need.



## Industrial Durability

Our unique formulation of HDPE is made almost exclusively with virgin materials.



## Flexible Financing

Our payment options are as customizable as our docks.



## Easy Installation

Cut installation time by 75% whether DIY or installed by a professional.



## 48-Hour Processing

It's easy to get started. Just request a quick quote.

*Interested in a commercial setup? Dock Blocks provides options that work for multiple industries and can help generate revenue with our unique system.*



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**877.478.8440**