



Connect-A-Dock Winter Dock Storage Guidelines (05/31/05)

If your dock is located in a body of water which freezes in the winter and results in ice moving either vertically or horizontally then certain precautions should be taken to prevent moving or shifting ice from damaging either your dock(s) and/or your anchoring system(s). **The only guaranteed way to prevent damage is to remove the docks from the water prior to winter.** This is a necessity for rivers with rapid ice movement and larger bodies of water with significant ice shifting. If you are uncertain about your local conditions, it is recommended that the dock be removed.

When in doubt, take it out!

For docks in bodies of water that do NOT experience ice shifting (i.e. farm ponds), the following methods will reduce the chance of damage from ice:

Stiff Arm Anchored Docks

Remove the ramp as soon as ice forms. As the ice locks the dock in place, loosen the tie lines to shore so that if the ice moves the dock can move with it. Check the lines to make sure they are slack. If not, loosen them.

Pole Anchored Docks

Remove the ramp as soon as ice forms. Then either remove the poles completely or clamp the poles high enough that they are a couple of feet above the bottom of the low water. Next, temporarily tie the dock loosely to the shore with ropes. Adjust the ropes, as needed, if movement takes place.

Anchor Lines

Remove ramp and loosen all tie lines as soon as the dock is locked in place from ice. Continue to loosen lines if movement takes place.

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