

The Complete Guide to Choosing

Dock De-Icers for Boat Owners

In 2018, the town of Ellsworth, ME spent \$100k repairing ice damage to its docks. Ice poses an incredibly dangerous risk to your dock, boats, and even fish and other marine life. This makes choosing dock de-icers an important money-saving decision. Read on to learn more about how ice will wreak havoc on your docks, marinas, and boats... and what you can do about it.

How Ice Can Damage Your Dock

As winter temperatures get colder, ice can begin to creep in. Small amounts of ice that may show up in late fall can be relatively harmless, but as temperatures plunge, ice becomes much more dangerous.



Photo Credit: KOMU8



Ice Jacking

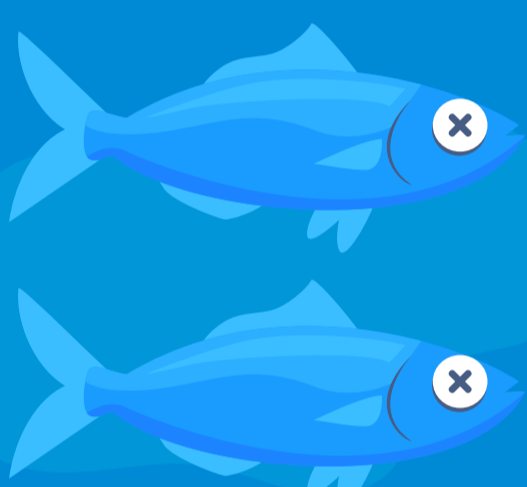
Ice jacking occurs when the pilings that support your dock are lifted out of their foundation. This phenomenon occurs when the ice around the pilings creates upward pressure on the dock. The pressure can be affected by several forces, including the tide, man-made changes to the body of water such as releasing water on a lake with a dam, and extreme freezing temperatures.



Photo Credit: LakeExpo.com

Ice Expansion

Ice expansion is similar to ice jacking. Water expands as it freezes, and as it expands, it can crack, shift, lift, or snap pilings out of its foundation. It can also damage the dock when water gets into any spaces or gaps and then freezes.



Winter Kill

As mentioned, winter kill involves the death of fish and wildlife beneath and around the water's surface. As ice forms on the surface of the water, it can create an opaque layer that's difficult for light to penetrate. With less sunlight, underwater plants are unable to produce as much oxygen for animals that live beneath the waves.

Choosing Dock De-Icers

Don't worry - you can prevent all of the preceding disasters with dock de-icers. Also known as ice eaters, dock de-icers come in two styles: bubblers and agitators.



Bubblers

Bubblers work by releasing small air bubbles through a hose. The hose is underwater, has small perforations in it, and is powered by an air compressor.



Agitators

Agitators are the most popular style of dock ice protection. They work by pulling warmer water from deeper in the lake up toward the surface.



Bearon Aquatics / Power House Ice Eaters

Power House Ice Eaters have been around for over 40 years and have helped thousands of dock owners protect their docks and watercraft. They work by sucking up warmer water from deep below the surface and directing it to where you need it most, melting ice and preventing it from forming.

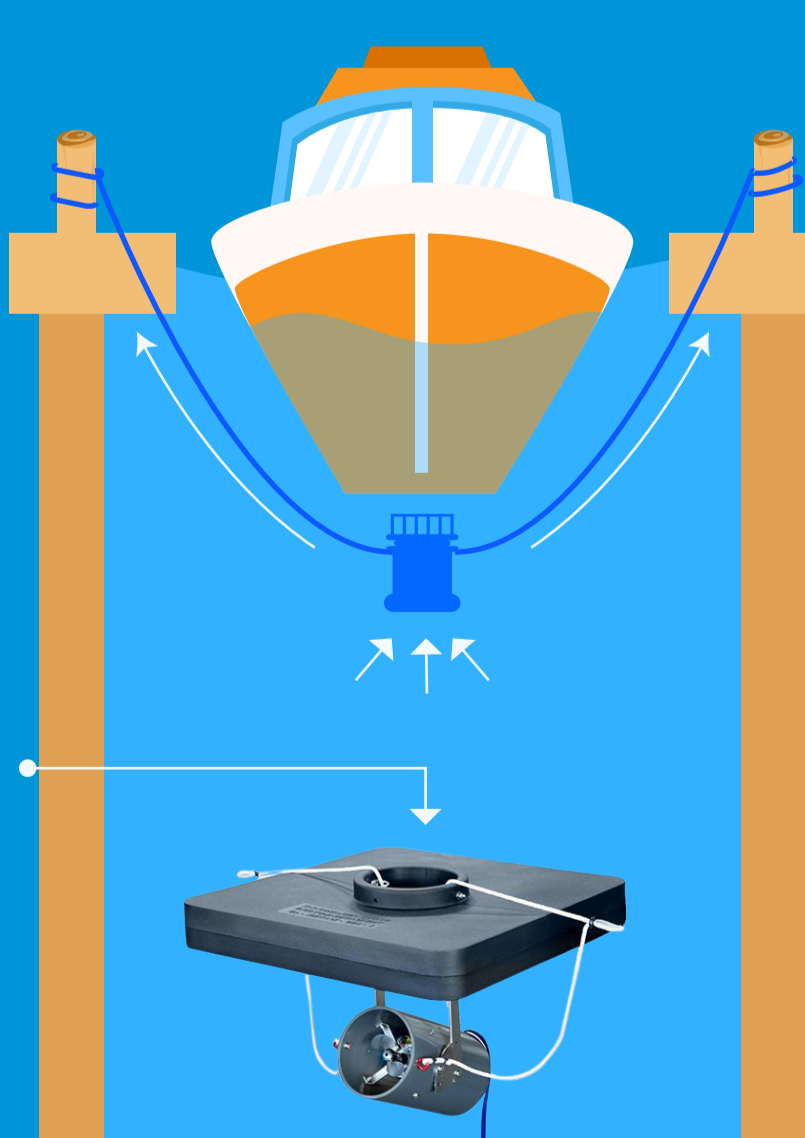
Kasco De-Icers

Kasco is the other much-loved dock de-icer provider. Kasco does, by bringing warmer water from deep below the surface. There are five separate models from which you can choose. These include:

- ✓ 2400D
- ✓ 3400D
- ✓ 3400HD
- ✓ 4400D
- ✓ 4400HD

Scott Aerator De Icers

Scott Aerator De Icers are another high-quality de-icer that we have used and recommend. They have been in the fountain, aeration, and de-icer business for over 50 years and like Bearon Aquatics and Kasco, they too are manufactured in the United States using American-made stainless steel, even the motor.



EasyPro Air De-Icing Dock Bubbler System

The EasyPro Air De-Icing Dock Bubbler System is great for shallower water, which normally works well with docks on lakes. The smaller models work for up to 6ft of water with the biggest model, the DKDW60 DKDW100 effective in depths over 7ft deep and with dock lengths of up to 60 and 100 feet respectively.