

LADDERS FOR BOATS AND DOCKS:

What Should You Be Looking For?

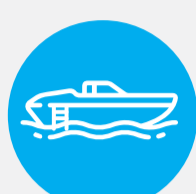


Choosing a Dock and Boat Ladder: What Should You Be Looking For?

Interest and demand for boating continues to reach record highs as we make our way through 2022. Whether you find yourself at a lake or a beach, soon it will be time for summer fun in the water!

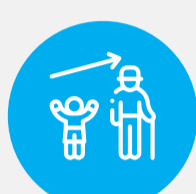
Finding the Best Dock Ladder

When browsing your options for a dock ladder, you'll want to find one that can safely hold any user and prevent accidents. To do so, you'll need to consider who will be using the ladder and which materials might be best.



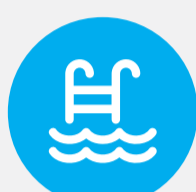
The Best Materials

Dock ladders need to be made from durable materials as they'll constantly be exposed to the elements. Unless you plan on replacing your dock ladder every season, buying one made to last is the best option.



Who Will Use the Ladder?

For older adults, anyone with mobility issues, or kids, you should choose ladders with wider footing. Narrow ladders are tougher to climb and easier to fall off balance. Wide ladders with plenty of footing help the user maintain their balance, reduces the risk of slipping, and reduces injuries.



Number of Steps

If you're installing a ladder on a dock, you should have at least two or three steps below the water level. An easy way to figure out how many steps you need is to measure from the dock to the water and divide that number by the step height.

Types of Dock Ladders

There are a few differences between the types of ladders out there for your dock.



Lifting Ladders vs. Stationary Ladders

- **Stationary ladders**
Don't move once installed. They remain submerged and attached to the dock.
- **Lifting ladders, flip-up ladders, and swing ladders**
Allow you to take the ladder out of the water at any time. This will protect it from the elements, prevent undue corrosion, and prevent slippery algae and other marine growth.



Other Types of Dock Ladders

- **Straight dock ladders**
A budget-friendly option with a simple and standard design. These ladders have safety handrails and come in various styles.
- **Stair dock ladders**
Perfect for people that might have trouble with traditional ladders; also great for pets.
- **Floatstep ladders**
Similar to traditional step ladders. The main difference is that they lift up when not in use.
- **Lift dock ladders**
Ideal for stationary docks. You can raise the rungs of the ladder up and out of the water when not in use and easily lower them down when you need them.

Do you have a finger pier or dock finger? If so, you'll appreciate the compact design of a finger pier ladder. This style maximizes dock space, but it doesn't have handlebars, only hand grips, so be careful when entering and exiting the water.

Choosing the Best Boat Ladder

Boat ladders are the perfect accessory to allow you to enjoy your pontoon or any other boat to the fullest. Stop whenever you or your passengers feel like jumping in the water to cool off. With the right boat ladder, they can climb in and out with ease.

Choosing the best boat ladder involves weighing many of the same considerations as a dock ladder, but there are also a few more factors.



Portable or Fixed?

Fixed boat ladders permanently attach to your boat. Portable ladders are designed to attach to your boat as needed.

Number of Steps

When you choose a boat ladder, you have to consider the number of steps, similar to choosing a dock ladder.

Ladders with only three steps can be tricky to use in the water, especially for anyone taller, heavier, older, or those with mobility issues. For these passengers, we recommend a ladder with at least two to three rungs underwater. If the water is choppy from wakes or waves you will want to err on the side of a longer ladder.

Ready for a Day in the Water?

These tips will help you choose the best boat ladder and dock ladder! Now you can kick off summer the right way and have safe and fun adventures in the water any time you want! Check out our selection of dock ladders and boat ladders for sale to prepare for a fun day in the water.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us here. We want to help you find the best dock or boat ladder to meet your needs!



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