

Preparing Your Dock for Winter With a Dock De-Icer

Or Ice Eater



Last year's winter brought severe arctic conditions into many parts of the United States. Lakes that rarely freeze were frozen solid for weeks. Some were able to get their docks protected, while others weren't so lucky. De-icer and ice eater demand was sky-high and many stores were sold out. This is why it is so important to get ahead of the game and get your dock de-icer(s) installed early.

If you own a dock, boat, marina, or boathouse, you need to take into consideration the damage a harsh winter could do to your waterside property.

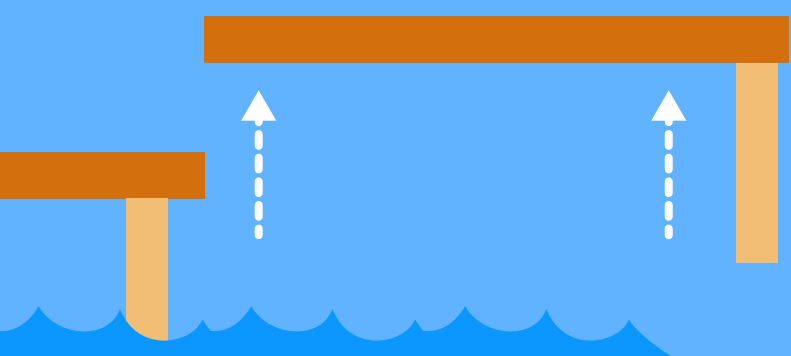
Prevent Damage With A Dock De-Icer

Dock de-icers are also known as ice eaters, aerators, or dock bubblers. They help prevent ice from developing in and around the area surrounding your dock by keeping the water moving and bringing warm water to the surface from the bottom. They can also melt ice that has already formed. They help prevent damage to your dock, marina, and boats while also reducing fish winter die-off in lakes and ponds.



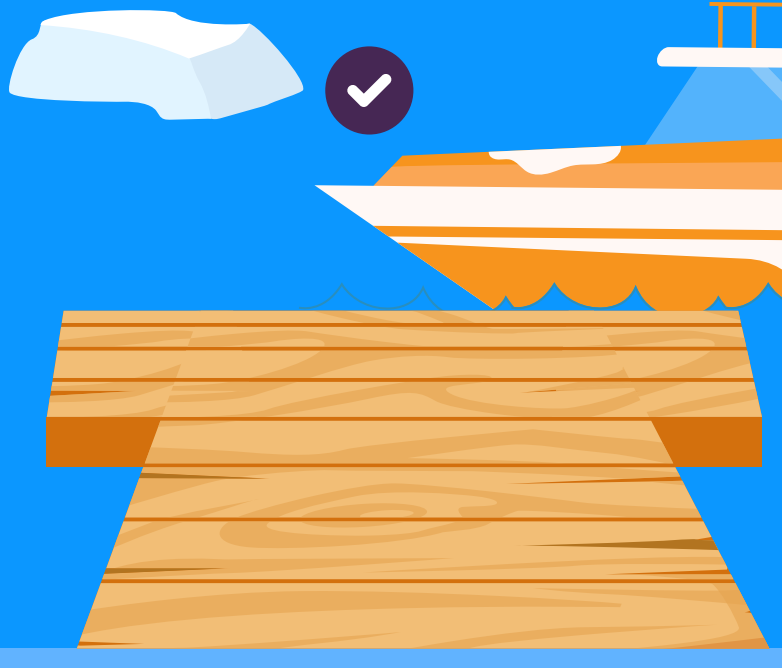
Removable Docks

For removable docks, you will need to remove and store all of the accessories that are on the dock. That could include cleats, fenders, benches, and handrails. Remove these first and store them safely. Then you need to make sure that the dock is clean. This will stop it from degrading and having mildew build up in storage; it will also save you a job in the spring. Once clean, you can unscrew and store each of the sections in a dry and secure location.



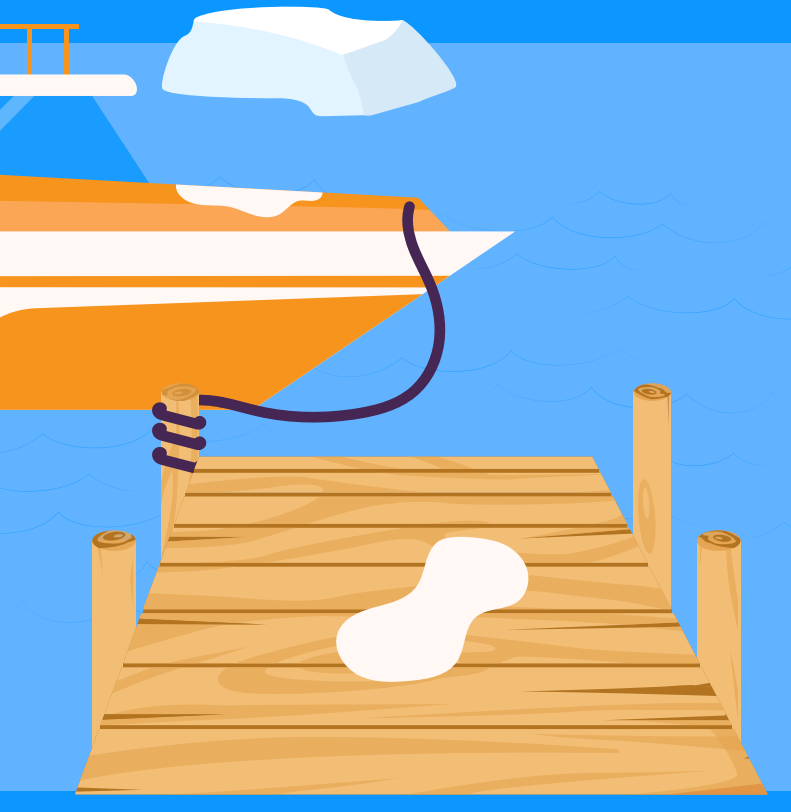
Fixed Docks

Again, firstly make sure you remove all the accessories from the dock. This could include any lighting you have installed on the dock, any ladders, and furniture. Make sure this is all cleaned and stored safely in a dry location. Now, you need to install a de-icer to help winterize your dock. A de-icer is installed below the water's surface so that it can create an opening around your dock by forcing warmer water from the bottom to the surface.



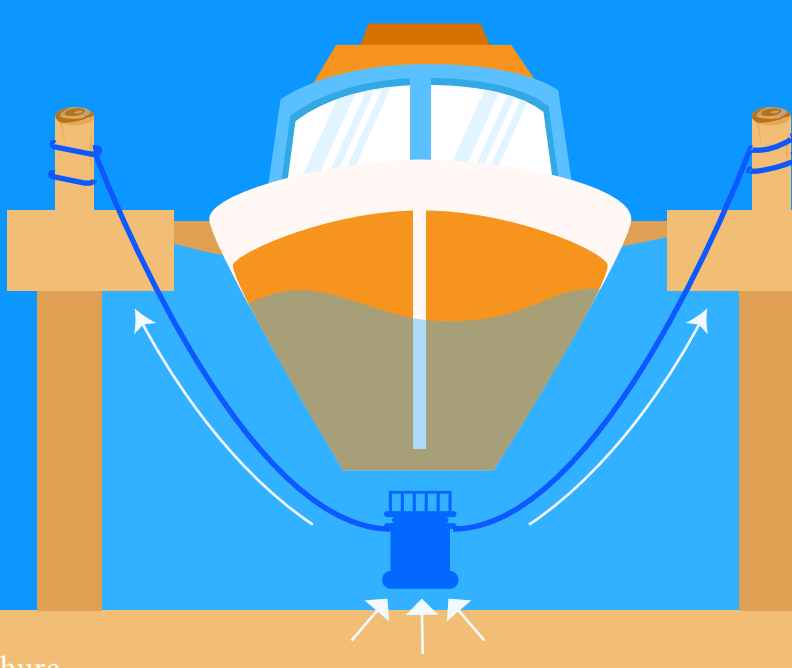
Other Winterizing Tips

If your dock sits on a pontoon that is fixed, make sure you attach a safety line to it when you prepare your dock. This can help when the winter thaw starts just in case the dock has come loose during the coldest months. Tie it to a tree if you have to, but make sure there is enough slack to account for tides and other water level changes.



Use A Dock De-Icer To Keep Your Dock Safe

If you have a fixed dock on a large lake or just a large fish pond that you want to keep free from ice throughout winter, an ice eater/ de-icer is the best solution to avoid costly damages and also protect fish and plant life. The more that you do to winterize your dock or pond before the freeze sets in, the more you can enjoy all your dock has to offer come the spring.



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