

How to Tie Up a Yacht in a Marina Berth Correctly

Securing your yacht properly in a marina berth is essential for safety, both for your vessel and those around it. Poorly tied lines can lead to damage from movement, chafing, or even cause the boat to break free. Here's how to do it right, from choosing the correct rope to tying the lines.

1. Choose the Right Type of Rope

For docking, the most suitable rope is **double-braid polyester or nylon (polyamide)**.

- **3 Strand Nylon (polyamide):** Offers excellent stretch and shock absorption, ideal for most mooring conditions.
- **Polyester:** Less stretch but more resistant to chafing and UV, making it suitable for permanent dock lines.

Avoid polypropylene for docking—while cheap and lightweight, it degrades quickly in UV light and lacks the strength needed.

2. Selecting the Correct Rope Size

As a general rule:

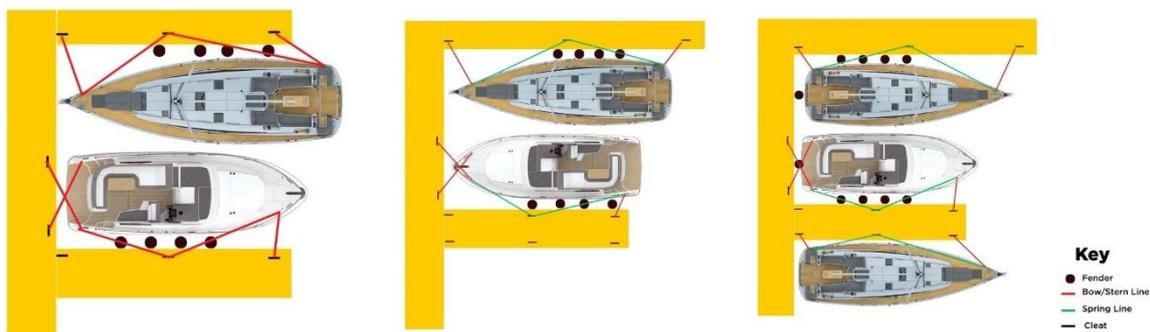
- For boats up to **10m (30ft)**: 10–12mm diameter rope
- For boats **10–12m (30–40ft)**: 12–14mm
- For boats **12–15m (40–50ft)**: 14–16mm
- Over **15m (50ft)**: 18–20mm

Always check your yacht's manufacturer recommendations, as weight and windage can influence the correct size.

3. Types of Dock Lines You Need

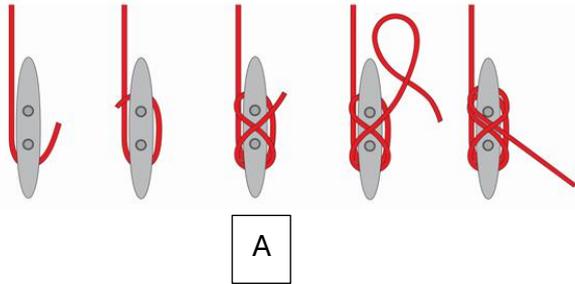
A typical setup includes two bow lines, two stern lines, and at least one spring line each way.

- **Bow Lines:** Prevent the bow from moving away from or toward the dock.
- **Stern Lines:** Do the same for the stern.
- **Spring Lines:** Run diagonally (forward spring and aft spring) to stop the boat from surging forward or backward.



4. How to Tie the Lines Correctly

1. Use reliable knots such as:
 - **A: Cleat hitch** (for attaching to dock cleats also known as the 0800 method. Ideally without the locking turn) **DO NOT USE ON TOP OF ANOTHER CLEAT HITCH.**
 - **B: Bowline** (for creating a fixed loop and used on the dock cleats. Allows for multiply ropes on the one cleat if you “Dip the Eye”)



5. Tension and Angle of Lines

- Dock lines should have a slight angle to absorb movement.
- Avoid tying them too tight—some slack allows for wind and wave movement.
- Cross stern lines, when possible, for extra stability.

6. Protect Against Chafe

- Use **chafe guards or hose sleeves** on sharp edges or where lines pass over fairleads.
- Check lines regularly for wear.

7. Final Checks

- Fenders should be correctly positioned to protect against rubbing.
 - Ensure lines are not obstructing walkways or tripping hazards.
 - If setting up permanent dock lines with an eye at each, test for stretch before making them so they will work in all conditions and wind directions
 - **DO NOT** use other boats cleats.
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Summary

Tying up your yacht properly is about using the **right rope**, in the **correct size**, with **secure knots and proper line arrangement**. A well-secured yacht not only protects your own investment but also helps maintain safety and harmony in the marina.

Dock line should be checked annually and replaced at the first sign of decay. Remember the cost of a few lines is cheaper than boat repairs.