

PLACEMENT

No person may place or construct a dock, floating dock or boat lift on, in or over public water or its shoreline except:

1. Any landowner whose property adjoins public waters if the dock, floating dock or boat lift is placed within the riparian boundaries of the landowner's property.
2. Any person who receives written permission from a landowner whose property adjoins public waters if the dock, floating dock or boat lift is placed within the riparian boundaries of the landowner's property.
3. Concessionaires or other entities authorized to operate from lands owned, leased, managed or controlled by the Department under a concession or lease agreement.
4. A landowner whose property is 50 feet or less in width and adjacent to a public water may place no more than one dock and one floating dock in the water. A landowner whose property is more than 50 feet in width and adjacent to a public water may place no more than two docks and one floating dock into the public water. An adjacent landowner must apply for a variance permit to place more than two docks into a public water.
5. Any dock or floating dock may not be placed so it prohibits public access to waters or shoreline areas accessible to the public under existing state law.



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

605.223.7660

wildinfo@state.sd.us

parkinfo@state.sd.us

south dakota DOCK REGULATIONS



DOCKS, FLOATING DOCKS AND BOAT LIFTS

A **DOCK** is a wharf, platform, pier or similar structure located on, in or over any public water. Docks are normally connected to, or in contact with, the shoreline.

A **FLOATING DOCK** can be a diving platform, ski jump or similar structure located on, in or over public water. Floating docks are normally not connected to or otherwise in contact with the shoreline.

A **BOAT LIFT** is any device used for storing or holding boats above the surface of public waters.

STANDARDS

A dock may not extend over the water for more than 60 feet, excluding the length of a “T” or “L” attachment. The dock’s walking platform must be at least 30 inches wide, but no wider than 10 feet. (see diagrams below)

A boat lift, “T” or “L”, or similar attachment to a dock can be no longer than 24 feet. A boat lift may not be placed more than 60 feet from shore unless it is attached to a dock and you have an approved variance permit.

PERMITS

If you wish to place a dock that does not conform to these requirements, contact a Conservation Officer to see if you qualify for a variance permit. Non-transferable variance permits are issued at the discretion of the Department. No permit may be used for a dock that extends over the water more than 60 feet unless the person applying for the permit signs a Release and Waiver of Liability form provided by Game, Fish and Parks. Factors used in consideration for approving variance permits include, but are not limited to, current water levels, dock design, and the intended use of the dock. Concessionaires and authorized entities operating on lands owned, leased, managed or controlled by the Department are exempt from these provisions, as long as the docks are under a concession or lease agreement.

All variance permits are subject to administrative

revocation. All docks and floating docks are subject to removal from public waters for failure to follow the standards and requirements.

MAINTENANCE

All docks and floating docks must be securely anchored in place to prevent drifting.

All docks and floating docks will have no safety hazards and will be maintained so that they do not become a public nuisance or severely detract from the aesthetic value of the public

waters and the shoreline of adjacent properties. The flotation material used in docks and floating docks must be made of low density, closed-cell rigid plastic foam, high impact polyethylene, fiberglass or inert materials. Airtight, watertight containers that are free of toxic or pollutive substances may also be used for flotation.

All electrical wiring, connections, facilities or property serving a dock must conform to the regulations adopted by the South Dakota State Electrical Commission.

From sunrise to one-half hour past sunset, floating docks not attached to or in contact with the shoreline must have an attached red flag at least three feet above the floor and be plainly visible from a distance of at least 150 feet. In order for a floating dock to remain on the water longer than one-half hour after sunset it must be secured as close to the shoreline as possible.

DOCK DIAGRAMS

