

Important Information on Using a *Nettle Net*[®] BOAT POOL[®] From a Dock or Pier

Many of our customers use *Nettle Nets* successfully from their docks or piers. *Nettle Nets* can be used successfully in most dock or pier situations, but there are a number of issues encountered with dock use that are not encountered when using a *Nettle Net* from a boat. The following issues need to be considered when using a *Nettle Net*[®] BOAT POOL[®] from a dock.

Barnacles on Pilings

Barnacles are very sharp and can put pinhole leaks or cuts into the float ring or tears in the netting. If you do happen to get a small pinhole leak or netting tear, they are fairly easy to repair, but by following the steps outlined here you can greatly reduce the chances of having any problems.

Every effort should be taken to minimize the possibility of contact between the pool and barnacles. First, identify the pilings or bulkhead surfaces that are at risk of coming into contact with the pool. We recommend scraping the barnacles off of those surfaces and covering the potential contact areas with indoor-outdoor or industrial grade carpeting. Tack on with rustproof nails or hold in place with plastic straps or cable ties. This will inhibit barnacle growth and will give the pool a smooth surface with which to come into contact. We also recommend putting carpeting on the top edge of the dock where the pool will come into contact during launching and retrieving. This will prevent against the pool getting caught on splinters or rough deck planks. We recommend installing a retractable aluminum ladder to get in and out of the pool. Retracting the ladder when not in use will keep it barnacle free.

When using a *Nettle Net*[®] BOAT POOL[®] from a boat, the swim ladder is generally laid into the pool. When using the pool from a dock, the ladder is generally kept outside the pool, with the pool resting against the ladder as a contact point. The pool can be entered and exited by the ladder. It will not hurt the pool to step gently on the netting to use the ladder, but do take care not to overly stretch the netting when doing so, or to step on the float ring. Use mooring lines attached to the tie straps on the sides of the pool and secured to cleats or pilings on the dock to hold the pool in place against the ladder and away from pilings. An alternative to using a pool directly from a dock is to use a pool from a boat that is moored at the dock. In this case, you could use the swim ladder and swim platform on the boat. It would still be necessary to scrape and cover any nearby pilings.

Depth of the water and condition of the bottom

All of the *Nettle Net*[®] BOAT POOL[®]s are 6 feet deep along the sides and reach depths up to 8 feet in the center areas. They can be used in water that is shallower than 6 –8 feet. In shallow water, a sandy bottom is the best surface. Be sure to swish the pool around during retrieval to rinse out any sand. If the bottom is mucky or muddy, you will certainly want to rinse the pool well when you retrieve it. The primary issue when using the pool in shallow water is the potential for users to be walking on the netting on the bottom. If people will be walking or standing on the netting, you will want to be sure to police the bottom surface to make sure that there are no sharp objects that may be stepped on, such as rusty metal, glass, shells, barnacle covered sticks or logs, etc. These objects could potentially create tears in the netting. These tears are usually fairly easy repair, but should obviously be avoided if at all possible.

Orientation of the dock and local wind and current conditions

Most docks (piers) are situated perpendicular to the shoreline, and consequently are also perpendicular to the tidal current, and also often to the wind, which sometimes funnels along creeks and bodies of water. This differs from using a pool from a boat at anchor, which will orient itself in the direction of the wind and/or current flow. At a dock, the more protected the location and the less the local current strength, the better. To counter a current or wind flow, attach lines to the side tie straps on the pool and tie them off to cleats or pilings on the dock, or to boats in adjacent slips. The wider the angle of the lines relative to the dock, the more effective the lines will generally be.

Never leave a pool deployed off a dock or pier in a storm or in rough weather. It is not recommended to leave a *Nettle Net* in the water overnight off a dock or use for more than three successive days without drying the net. Storms and excessive algae will damage a *Nettle Net*. There is also a risk in leaving a pool in the water overnight that a passing boat could hit or become entangled by a pool, possibly destroying the pool and damaging the boat.