

WALK A DOCK

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Before your Walk a Dock is installed, it is necessary to bolt two leg guides to each dock section and attach the legs with square U bolts. All sections other than the first also require that the hook plates, which link the sections, be installed. This involves a total of (8) 3/8" bolts and (2) U bolts, so is not time consuming. Those details are covered in instructions included in the hardware package and are not repeated here.

Installation

FIRST SECTION

The first dock section typically sits on shore, or on concrete blocks or steps at the waterfront. Walk A Dock can supply legs to be attached at the shore end without trouble, though this is usually not required. Provide a stable place for the dock to sit where it won't rock or feel unstable. If the first section needs to slope up or down somewhat to accommodate local conditions, that is fine.

Adjust the leg height so that the dock will sit at the desired height above the water. You should decide how high you want the dock. Factors to consider are whether the water level fluctuates on your lake, whether there are large waves to contend with (suggesting a little more clearance), or whether you will be climbing onto the dock frequently without a ladder. In general, a dock height at the top of less than 12" above the water is probably about the minimum. Some people like their docks very high, but 24" above the water would be an awful lot.

Carry the section to the water, by standing in the middle and holding both sides. Set it down and go to the shore end of the section. Place your hands near the outboard ends of the pipe handle. Rock the dock so that it sits on the right leg. Push your left hand forward. This will move the left leg out into the lake. Now tip the dock so it rests on the left leg and push your right hand forward. Repeat this process, four or five times until you have the dock out where you want it. It is sometimes helpful to walk it about 6" beyond where you want it and simply drag it back into the right position. Visually check whether the dock is at the right height at the outboard end and level. If correct, proceed to installing decking.

If the height needs to be changed, or the dock is not level from side to side, several techniques are possible to do this.

LEVELING TECHNIQUES

1. I don't Mind Getting Wet and I'm in a Hurry.

Walk into the water, loosen the leg, lift up the dock and re-set the leg. A level is a good idea. Do this before putting the decking on so it's really light.

2. I don't want to get wet.

Check how far off level the section is. A good way to do this is to place a level so it is on the dock at one end and level. If the level is 2' long, then the leg will need to be raised or lowered about five times as much as the distance from the other end of the level to the section.

Unhook the section, and just drag it back to where you are, whether on shore or standing on the last section you installed. Adjust the legs and walk it back into position. Only takes a minute and it will be right if you've done a good job. This is my preferred installation method.

3. I don't want to get wet, and I already put the decking on.

For this, you need a dock jack. Remove the blue cap from the leg. Insert the tube of the dock jack into the leg until it won't go any further (there's a bolt to stop it). Slack off the winch until the "Claw" can be slipped around the dock section from the outside. Tighten the winch until the cable is moderately tight. Loosen the leg U Bolts and turn the winch to lift or lower the dock until level. Retighten the U Bolt. Do the other side, or, if you have two jacks, do it all at once.

INSTALL DECKING

There are three pallets of decking per section. Two have 6 decking boards and one has seven. The decking boards are spaced far enough apart so that you can get your fingers between the boards in order to carry them easily.

The decking sits on the top of the dock with spacers on the bottom that hold it in place. The stringers on one section are cut short at the end. They are cut short so that they won't sit on top of the 2" x 3" tube at the lake end of the section. This piece, then, should be the last one you put on.

Simply carry the decking pallet to where you want it, set the section on the two side rails and slide it outward toward the lake until it fits next to the last one. Do this three times and you have all the decking on for the section.

NEXT DOCK SECTION

The second, and succeeding sections, are installed the same way as the first, except that you stand on the dock that you've already built. Use the same leveling and decking installation techniques. Easy.

DIAGONALS

In deeper water, one diagonal brace should be attached to stiffen the dock. We recommend this on legs 6' and longer. The diagonals are set up so that you can attach them at the lower end and then either attach or adjust them from the dock once everything is leveled. You can attach them prior to leveling the legs, and that will be fine unless one leg needs to be higher than the other. For this reason, it is often easier to attach them once the legs have been leveled. They can even be attached later, but that will involve getting wet.

Diagonals, depending on style, attach with either 3/8" bolts or with J bolts that wrap around the legs.

END BOARD

Your dock has an end board which bolts to the outboard end of the last section to finish off the end of the dock. Please make sure that you install it. It looks nicer, makes the dock safer, and makes us prouder of our product.

ACCESSORY INSTALLATION

No specific instructions are included here for other accessories such as wings, benches, hoops, ladders or flowerpots. Mostly they are pretty clear. It is possible to "walk" an 8 x 10 dock wing into place if it's properly fastened together, but it does take two people.

DOCK REMOVAL

This is simply the reverse of installation. Remove the decking from the last section, lift up the shore end and drag it towards you. When you have it back to where you are standing, you can either remove the legs and carry it to shore, or carry it with the legs attached. If longer legs are attached, two people will be needed if you leave them on.

Continue until the dock is on shore. This process goes very fast and is really easy.

STORAGE

Two Systems:

BOX STORAGE Remove legs. Level one section on the ground. Place a layer of decking on top, and then stack other sections directly above that. This forms a neat little box. Put all the legs and other stuff in the box, and put the balance of the decking on top. Climb on top, sit down and admire the view.

NESTING STORAGE Leave the legs on and slide the sections into one another. The legs are spaced to the side so that they will clear the last section. In this way, the sections will take up little space. This technique reduces your installation time in the spring, and works fine, but they aren't all that much fun to look at if they're right in the middle of your view. Even at that, they're much more compactly stored and attractive than any other dock system! It wouldn't hurt a bit to back off the nuts and put a drop of oil on the U bolts when you store them.

AVAILABLE ACCESSORIES

Spend a little time thinking about how much easier it is to use your dock than your boat. Some of these accessories make your dock a really elegant place to spend some time.

- Conversation Deck – Attaches to any section and provides a 10' wide triangular conversation area with two benches that are at 90 degrees to each other. I've begun to think of it as a fishing deck, since it is ideal for that as well.
- Platforms/Wings – Two sections combine to create an 8' x 10' platform that mounts to either side of the dock. With the dock itself, this produces over 100 square feet of cedar lounging area.
- Benches – Walk A Dock benches can be attached anywhere. They sit over the side of the dock and don't take up floor space. They provide a comfortable spot to sit, and free you from carrying lounge chairs up and down from the dock.
- Dr. Dunkenstein Official Basketball Hoop. Dr. Dunk bolts to the side of the dock and permits a remarkably roughhouse game of basketball. Buoyed by the water, even old guys can leap and slam and do their Karl Malone imitation.
- Flower Pots. An octagonal redwood flower pot and bracket that simply attaches to the side of the dock anywhere, permitting you to dress up your dock as you choose.
- Jacks. These are used, as described above, to facilitate leveling or adjusting height.

Please call or email for more information. John Schlagel can be reached at 651 426 3617, or write to Walk A Dock at 1930 Mahtomedi Ave., Mahtomedi, MN 55115, or check us out on the website, walkadock.com.