

Details on moving dock floats

So maybe you are reading this file because you are intrigued about moving dock floats from the LHA newsletter article and want to help yourself and your lake neighbors by helping to clean up our lake. The Newsletter write-up was an informative article but, *in detail*, how do you move those things to a Corps ramp? How much trouble is it? Turns out....not much! This series of slides provides tips on moving dock floats yourself. And think of this as providing an 'excuse' to get out on our beautiful lake. Better yet, ask a friend or two to go and turn it into a fun outing. Depending on how many floats you'll collect and how far you need to tow them, it might take a couple of hours to do so. You'll need some line and screw eye bolts or similar. If you don't have those lying around, you might need to invest about \$5-\$10 for these items.

And this is best accomplished on a calm day. It can be a challenge working floats and/or boats in the wind.



ALSO (not shown): a boat hook will help you extend your reach when necessary.



These are all the tools and materials you'll need, in addition to a boat.

- This pry bar might be beneficial to getting more leverage to move a float down to the water if it's beached a bit.
- These are 8 inch screw eyes or screw bolts---you need 1 per float
- Parachute cord is all that is necessary if you're careful and not go too fast to exert too much pressure as you move through the water.



You need access to the float to place the screw bolt or screw eye. You can do this from shore or a boat.

Improvement: put the bolt/screw into the CORNER area of the dock. Less resistance as you pull the float through the water---against the angled sides instead of straight into a flat side).



Use a drill to drill through the hard plastic shell of the float. Note the angle of the drill relative to the direction of travel. Drill bit size should be less than the screw eye/bolt thread size.

After you've drilled through the plastic shell, pound the screw eye/bolt into the float. Again....note the angle as you hammer. No need to screw it in, just hammer it. It will go in easily after you've drilled through the float shell.

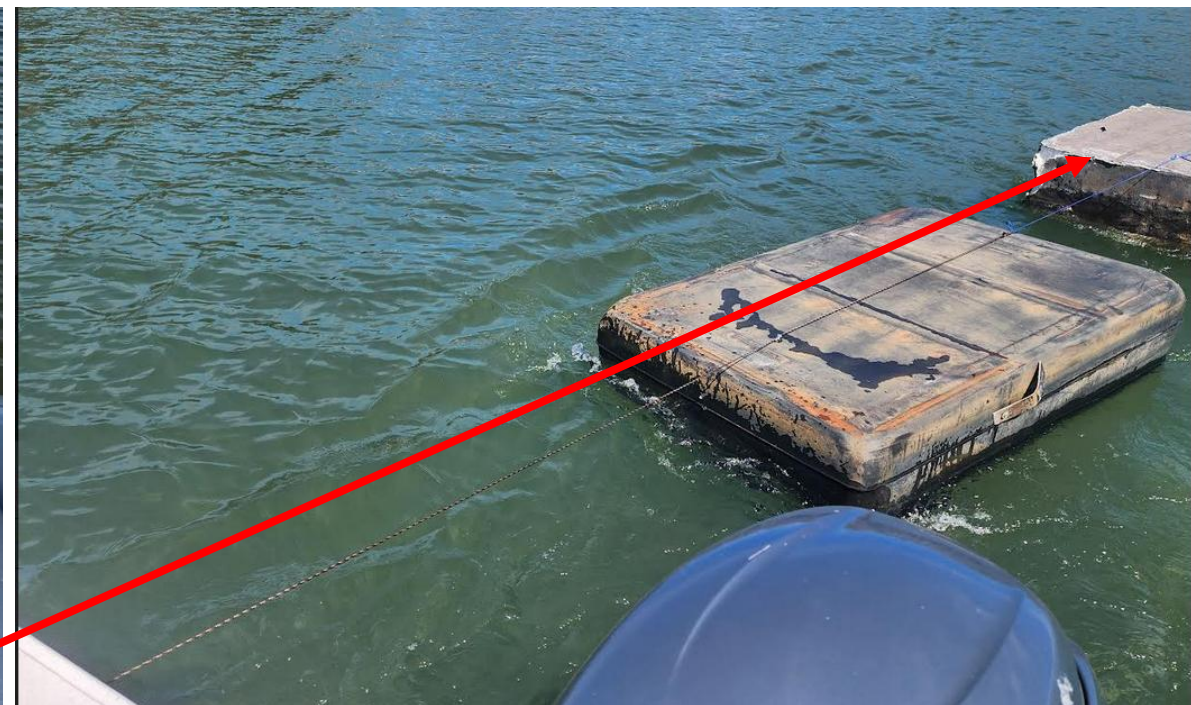


Leave about ½ inch of the bolt/screw exposed, the remainder being firmly hammered into the dock float.

If you intend to daisy-chain more than one float at a time:

- **For the float nearest the boat, leave about 6-8 feet of line to secure to the boat.**
- **Tie a knot around the bolt/screw at this 6-8 feet point.**
- **Leave the remainder of the line laying on the float ready for the next float(s).**

The float is ready to go at this point.



Tie the 1st float to one of the tie down eyes on the stern of the boat.

Note the rest of the line is just sitting on the float ready to go to the next float, if pulling more than one at a time.

A 2nd float is now attached to the daisy-chain. 3-4 feet is all the space needed between the 2 floats. Any remaining line is now sitting on top of this 2nd float.



Without much difficulty, I was able to pull 6 at a time with the 50 ft. parachute cord. Some of these were attached from shore, some from the boat. I've heard as many as 8 at a time have been pulled....

NOTE THAT THIS IS A SLOW PULL TO THE BOAT LAUNCH!!! TOO MUCH SPEED WILL CAUSE THE CORD TO BREAK AND/OR THE SCREW BOLT/EYES TO PULL OUT OF THE FLOAT.

Once at the Corps ramp, keep the line attached and pull the float or chain of floats around and up to shore. With the line you have used so far, secure the float or chain of floats to something firm so they won't drift out again.

You'll be leaving the line and screw bolts/eyes secured to the floats at the shore.

There is NO NEED to call the Corps office if you drop a float off, as they have a group that goes around regularly and collects floats from the ramp areas. But note these need to be towed to Corps managed ramp areas only, not county or state ramps. And this service is only for loose dock floats, not general trash.

- If you are aggressive and tow 6-8 or more to a Corps ramp, they would appreciate a 'heads up' phone call about that many floats. This is not a requirement, but a courtesy to the Corps for their planning.

Don't think of it as work or a hassle. But rather as doing something nice for your neighbors and the lake overall by helping get loose dock floats to Corps ramps. Removal of these floats improves the appearance and safety of our lake. And make it fun with friends and family. We finished our movement of several floats and still had time for an enjoyable evening cruise afterward. Happy Boating!