



## **Spartanburg Water Guidelines for Marine Structures**

### **Definitions**

#### **Marine Structure**

A structure protruding from the shoreline with a single tie-in whose purpose is for recreation. The structure may consist of multiple devices, but may only occupy one uninterrupted footprint not exceeding 924ft<sup>2</sup>. The square footage is measured around the perimeter of the entire marine structure, and any slips or additional gaps will be counted into the total area. The structure may contain up to, but not exceed, one dock and walkway, two boat lifts, two personal watercraft lifts, and may not contain more than two boat slips.

No marine structure may extend beyond one-third the width of a cove and configured so that it is a minimum of 14ft from the adjacent parcels projected sidelines. Any application to make a structural change (addition/removal) to a marine structure will require that the *entire marine structure* be brought up to current SWS standards. This includes but is not limited to the installation or removal of an attached boat lift or PWC lift, the construction of additional decking or walkway, and replacement of any aspect of the dock structure itself. All existing aspects of the marine structure must meet SWS standards prior to approval of the requested alterations.

#### **Cove**

A small recessed inlet or bay from the main body of water whose length measures greater than its width

#### **Qualifying Lot**

It must be a buildable lot by Spartanburg County. A recorded parcel with a minimum of two points abutting the Spartanburg Water owned contour. To be considered qualifying, a lot must have a minimum of 40ft of shoreline when projecting the parcel's sidelines to the water's edge.

#### **Single Owner, Multi-Lot Rule**

When parcel data indicates that an individual owns two or more adjacent parcels, only the parcel with an existing dwelling will be considered as a qualifying parcel

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### ***Docks***

**"Type A" Dock:** Marine structure in which the total length of stationary walkway and ramp do not exceed 18', and the floating platform does not exceed 12'x18'. The qualified applicant is not required to submit their own engineered drawing for this dock design provided all aspects of the materials and installation are to the standards outlined in the May 2017 edition of the *SWS Policies and Procedures for Use of Water Supply Reservoirs*. A Type A dock may not have a cover.

**"Type B" Dock:** Marine structure in which the total length of stationary walkway and ramp do not exceed 18', and the floating platform measures 24'x28' with a 10' slip. A cover on this dock type is optional but not required; if included the cover must be hunter green in color. The qualified landowner is not required to submit their own engineered drawing for this dock design provided all aspects of the materials and installation are to the standards outlined in the May 2017 edition of the *SWS Policies and Procedures for Use of Water Supply Reservoirs*.

**"Type C" Dock:** Any qualifying marine structure not meeting the standards defined above. All applicants for a Type C dock are required to submit a schematic (drawing) of the entire marine structure that has been stamped by a South Carolina Professional Engineer with their prospective application package. Property Owners with existing Type C docks that meet the square footage requirements who wish to install an un-attached boat or PWC lift will **not** be required to submit an engineered drawing. Only Property Owners wishing to install boat or PWC lifts that are attached to the existing or new dock will be required to submit an engineered drawing to supplement their lift application(s). Should the relevant permit application for a Type C dock or corresponding structural addition be approved by Spartanburg Water System (SWS), upon completion of construction a follow-up letter will be required to be submitted to SWS. This letter should include a statement from the Property Owner that certifies that the construction and installation of the Type C dock was performed in accordance with the engineered drawing and specification submitted to SWS in the application package. All Type C docks must meet the definition of a marine structure as outlined above, as well as comply with the standards outlined in the May 2017 edition of the *SWS Policies and Procedures for Use of Water Supply Reservoirs*. If a cover is included in the approved drawing, it must be hunter green in color. Again, all Type C docks must be approved by SWS before they can be installed; *submission of an engineered schematic does not guarantee that a dock will be approved.*

***Dock Slip***

A dock slip is an area enclosed on three sides by a dock used to tie off or store watercraft. A slip may contain a boat or PWC lift following the submission and approval of the appropriate application and execution of a Private Structure Agreement (PSA), provided that lift fits within the existing footprint of the marine structure. Regardless of square footage, no marine structure is to contain more than two dock slips. Any application for a qualifying structure with two slips (that falls within the maximum 924ft<sup>2</sup> marine structure requirement) will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will require supplemental plantings along the SWS buffer. Any dock containing more than one slip will be considered a Type C dock and require design and certification by a South Carolina Professional Engineer to ensure the safety and suitability of the structures.

## Questions & Answers

### **Where can I apply for a permit?**

You may obtain a permit application by clicking the [Combined Land Permit Application](https://www.spartanburgwater.org/combined-land-permit-application) on either page <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/bowen-permits> or <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/blalockpermits>. Your application must be filled out completely and accompanied with pictures. Please call the Lake Bowen Warden's office at 864-592-2240 or the Lake Blalock Warden's Office at 864-578-5442 if you need assistance with the permitting process. Our staff is very knowledgeable of the permit process. Please contact us if you need assistance.

### **When do I need to apply for a new permit?**

Anytime you plan to do any work on Spartanburg Water property, with the exception of general dock maintenance. Failure to get a new permit may result in unwanted delays, suspension or cancellation of approved applications, increase in fees, modification or removal of the non-complying structure, and/or withdrawal of permission to have a dock on the particular lot.

### **How much does a permit cost?**

There are different costs associated with each permit application. For a detailed list of prices, please go to <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/bowen-permits> or <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/blalockpermits>.

### **How long does it take to get my permit back once I submit all my information?**

Certain times of the year the dock permitting process may take longer than others because of demand. Spartanburg Water has a goal of trying to issue permits in about 14 days of receiving the permit application; however, some circumstances may increase the turnaround time.

### **I just received my new permit. How long do I have to put my dock in place?**

Permits are valid for one year from the date of issuance on the approval form and the dock must be installed within that time period. Failure to install will result in the need to reapply for a permit.

### **What things should I consider when determining the length of the walkway needed?**

Maximum walkway lengths for both Type A and B docks are 18'. If you would like a longer walkway, you must submit a dock application for a Type C dock accompanied by a stamped drawing by a certified South Carolina Professional Engineer and will be considered on a case by case basis.

### **I have less than 40 feet of shoreline. What is the maximum size dock I can have installed?**

The minimum amount of shoreline required to have a dock is 40 feet at the water's edge. One can determine their shoreline by extending their side lot lines beyond the Spartanburg Water contour to the water's edge. If you do not have 40 feet at the water's edge, you will not be permitted to have a dock.

### **I would like to have a two story dock. Is this allowed?**

A two-story dock is not allowed on any of Spartanburg Water's reservoirs.

### **I want to sell my dock to another lot owner on the lake. What do I need to do?**

Before finalizing the sale, be sure you and the buyer of the existing dock have applied for and received approval for a permit through Spartanburg Water. Spartanburg Water will need to be aware of where your existing dock will be going. You will need a permit to remove your dock, as well as the new owner will need a permit to place the dock in its new location.

### **I want to install a new dock in place of my existing dock. What is the process for disposing of the old dock?**

First, you will need to complete the application process and receive an approved permit from Spartanburg Water. Spartanburg Water needs to be notified of your intentions of disposing of the old dock and requires that the old dock be removed within 14 days of completing the installation of the new permitted dock.

**How far away does my dock need to be from my neighbors dock?**

All docks must be at least 14 feet from the neighboring projected property line.

**My dock was installed. Do I need to contact Spartanburg Water or does my dock manufacturer?**

As a courtesy, you should contact the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office to inform them that the dock has been installed so that the final dock inspection can be performed.

**What is the maximum square footage for a marine structure on Spartanburg Water reservoirs?**

The maximum square footage for a marine structure is 924 feet<sup>2</sup>. The structure may consist of multiple devices, but may only occupy one uninterrupted footprint not exceeding 924 feet<sup>2</sup>. The structure may only have one tie in to the shore and may contain up to, but not exceed, one dock and walkway, 2 boat lifts, and a double personal watercraft lift. No marine structure may extend beyond one-third the width of a cove and at all times must be configured so that it is a minimum of 14ft from the adjacent parcels projected sidelines.

**Do I need to apply for a permit if I plan on installing a boat lift or PWC lift?**

Yes, a permit is required for all work done on Spartanburg Water reservoirs. When applying for any lift permit, you must remember that the lift is calculated into the maximum allowable square footage of 924 feet<sup>2</sup>.

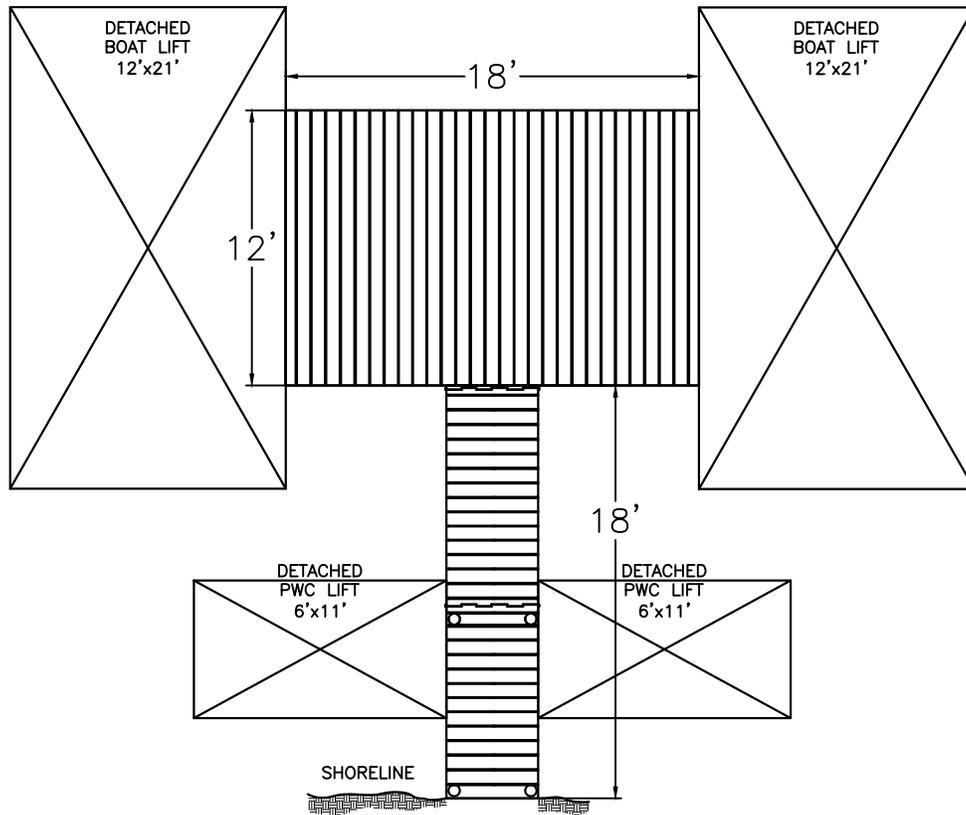
**I have an existing dock and would like to add a cantilevered dock box frame on the side for my dock box. Will I need to get a permit?**

Yes, a permit is required for all work done on Spartanburg Water reservoirs. If the frame for the dock box changes the original footprint of the dock then it will be counted towards the maximum allowable square footage of 924 feet<sup>2</sup>.

**Do I need insurance on my dock?**

Yes, get it in writing, and continuously check for the presence of its coverage in renewal policies! We have seen circumstances where customers were told the dock was included in the policy, but to the surprise of the insurance agent and customer, the dock was excluded in a renewal policy and subsequently was not covered when significant storm damaged occurred.

# Marine Structure Example Schematics



TYPE "A" DOCK

12'x18' DOCK  
 4'x18' WALKWAY

2 DETACHED BOAT LIFTS  
 2 DETACHED PWC LIFTS

924 SQ. FT.

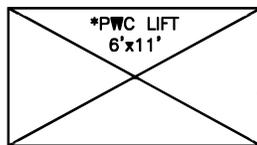
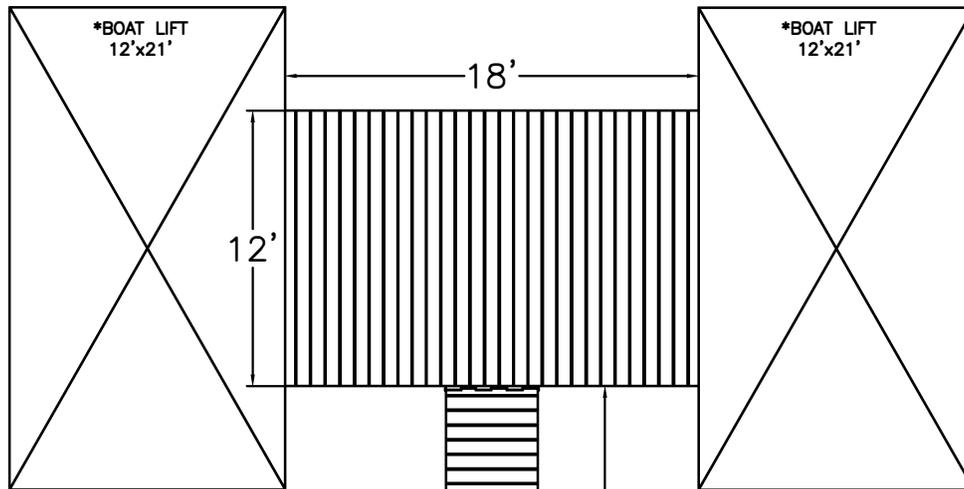
EFFECTIVE DATE:  
 FEBRUARY 19, 2018



MARINE STRUCTURE  
 EXAMPLES  
 '1'

SCALE: NONE REVISION DATE: FEB 13, 2018

NOT TO SCALE



TYPE "C" DOCK

12'x18' DOCK  
4'x50' WALKWAY

2 BOAT LIFTS  
1 PWC LIFT

886 SQ. FT.

EFFECTIVE DATE:  
FEBRUARY 19, 2018



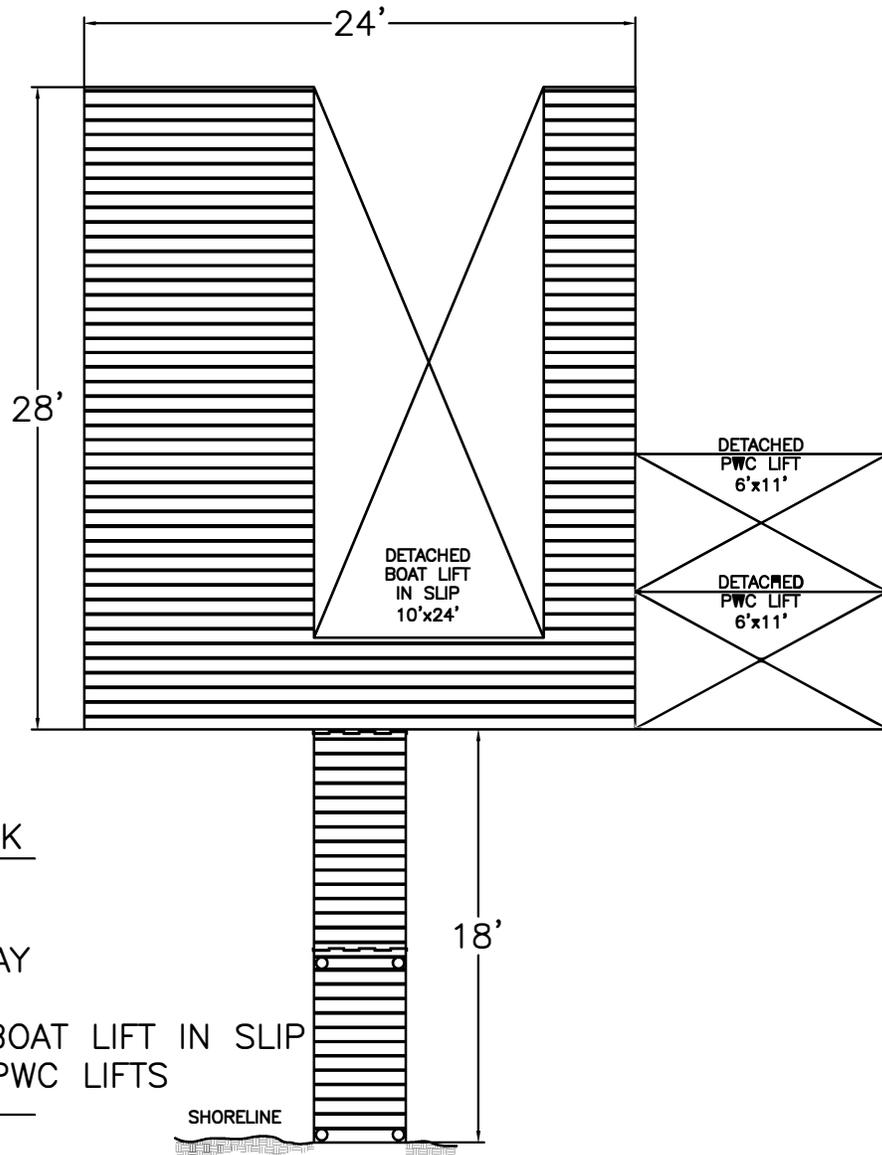
MARINE STRUCTURE  
EXAMPLES  
'3'

\*NOTE: TYPE "C" DOCKS BOAT LIFTS AND PWC LIFTS MAY BE ATTACHED OR UNATTACHED. IF ANY LIFT IS ATTACHED TO A DOCK, IT WILL REQUIRE DESIGN AND CERTIFICATION BY A SOUTH CAROLINA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER TO ENSURE SAFETY AND SUITABILITY OF THE STRUCTURE.

NOT TO SCALE

SHORELINE

SCALE: NONE REVISION DATE: FEB 13, 2018



TYPE "B" DOCK

28'x24' DOCK  
4'x18' WALKWAY

- 1 DETACHED BOAT LIFT IN SLIP
- 2 DETACHED PWC LIFTS

876 SQ. FT.

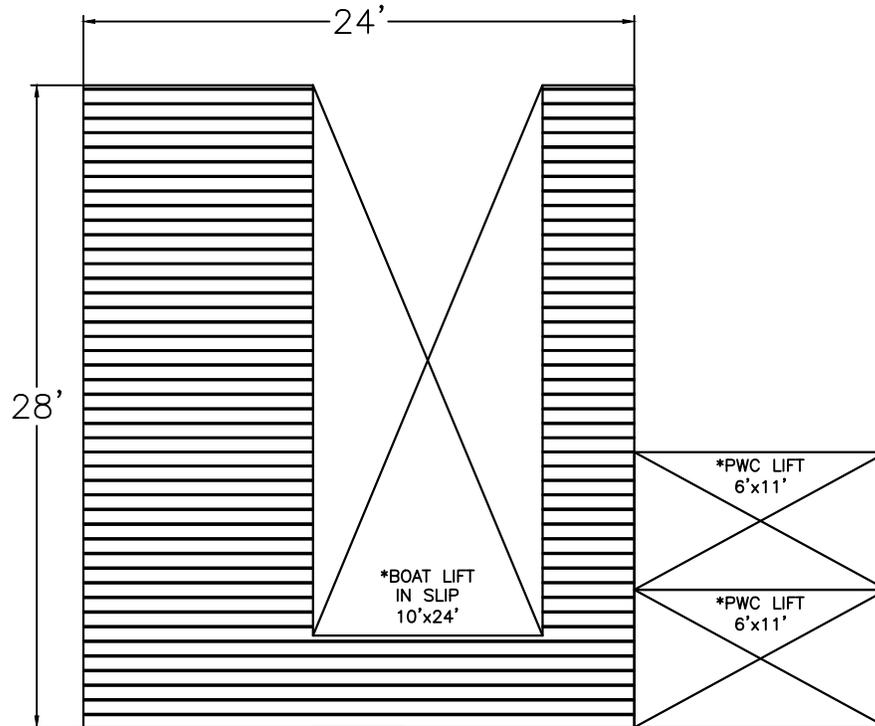
EFFECTIVE DATE:  
FEBRUARY 19, 2018



MARINE STRUCTURE  
EXAMPLES  
'2'

SCALE: NONE REVISION DATE: FEB 22, 2018

NOT TO SCALE



TYPE "C" DOCK

28'x24' DOCK  
4'x30' WALKWAY

1 BOAT LIFT IN SLIP  
2 PWC LIFTS

924 SQ. FT.

\*NOTE: TYPE "C" DOCKS BOAT LIFTS AND PWC LIFTS MAY BE ATTACHED OR UNATTACHED. IF ANY LIFT IS ATTACHED TO A DOCK, IT WILL REQUIRE DESIGN AND CERTIFICATION BY A SOUTH CAROLINA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER TO ENSURE SAFETY AND SUITABILITY OF THE STRUCTURE.

SHORELINE



NOT TO SCALE

EFFECTIVE DATE:  
FEBRUARY 19, 2018



MARINE STRUCTURE  
EXAMPLES  
'4'

SCALE: NONE

REVISION DATE: FEB 22, 2018