

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL HARBOURS

Moorings Guidelines

General Guidelines

These general guidelines are based on The Yacht Harbour Association guidelines for fore and aft chain trot moorings. They may need to be varied slightly due to local conditions - advice and agreement should be sought from the local Harbour Master or the Regional Harbour Master before laying your mooring.

1. The rising chain may be marine grade 30 with a minimum diameter of 19mm. Its length should be at least 3 times the water depth at HAT.
2. The chain bridle to the mooring buoys should have a minimum diameter of 12mm and include a swivel at the junction with the ground chain and a swivel at the mooring buoy.
3. The buoy should be sufficient in size to support the total weight of the bridle chain when at its highest level and preferably have an eye above the buoy for use by the vessel crew.
4. It is recommended that all shackles are seized with stainless wire or similar.

Kirkcudbright Harbour:

These guidelines are based on custom and practice to cope with the fast flowing and corrosive nature of the muddy water at Kirkcudbright.

The riser chain should consist of:

1. 2m of heavy gauge chain with a minimum diameter of 19mm. (Sections of 26mm used chain are available at Kirkcudbright harbour office.)
2. 5m of tested 'proof' chain between the heavy gauge and the buoy with a minimum diameter of 12mm.
3. Shackles to connect both sections of chain together, to connect to the ground chain/block and to connect to the strops – shackles should be of 14mm galvanised and the shackle pins seized with stainless wire or similar.

Note: *Avoid stainless steel:*

Do not mix mild and stainless steel. This will create a galvanic reaction that will quickly eat away the mild steel chain.

4. 2 x buoys – sufficient in size to support the total weight of the chain when at its highest level and preferably have an eye above the buoy for use by the vessel crew.

5. At the forward mooring there should be a single strop (twin for Catamarans) with a hard eye spliced around a thimble at one end for connection to the chain and a soft eye spliced at the other for the securing point on deck. Strops should be 12mm or 14mm depending on the size of vessels and the type of warp used. – Strops should be of a suitable type e.g. Liros, and not made up from old genoa lines, cheap DIY shop rope etc.
6. Stern moorings should consist of a bridle of 2 strops with a hard eye spliced around a thimble at one end for connection to the chain and a soft eye spliced at the other for connection to the securing point on deck.
7. Strops should be long enough so that the chain does not hit the boat – but no longer.
8. You will need a pick up line to join your two sets of strops. The length of the line between the strops is slightly more than the length of your boat and should have floats/buoys which will both keep the line afloat and clearly mark its position to other users.

Maintenance.

Under our General Terms and Conditions 'Maintenance of riser chains and mooring buoy(s) is the responsibility of the boat owner. '

It is recommended that moorings are checked at least twice a year for wear.