



Dock Flotation Guide

<u>Stock No.</u>	<u>Approximate Flotation*</u>
46116 – 24” x 48” x 12” H	450 lbs.
46117 – 24” x 48” x 16” H	600 lbs.
46118 – 24” x 36” x 12” H	335 lbs.

*Flotation rating is based on dock float fully submerged.

Determining the Quantity of Floats Required:

A typical dock installation is one where 40-50% of the total flotation rating of the floats is consumed by the weight of the dock leaving the unused flotation available to carry a load on the dock while the dock is in use. *For example, if a dock weighs 1200 lbs. and has 2400 lbs. of flotation under the dock, the dock will float about 1/2 way up the sides of the dock floats with no loading. The dock will have a working load capacity of 1200 lbs. before the actual dock contacts the waterline. In this example, (4) #46117 floats could be used to provide 2400 total pounds of flotation.*

Calculating Freeboard:

Another consideration is how much freeboard is desired. Freeboard is controlled by a combination of unused flotation and the actual height of the material used to construct the dock. *For example, a dock is constructed from 12” high dock floats. The dock is constructed using 2 x 6 lumber with 5/4” decking and the weight of the dock consumes 50% of the total flotation. The total freeboard will be about 12.5”. (The dock floats provide 6” of height above the water line from unused flotation or 50% of the remaining buoyancy, standard 2 x 6 lumber is actually 5.5” high and 5/4” decking will add 1” for a total of 12.5”).*

If the application requires determining exact freeboard you should consider the first inch of the float will be lost to supporting the actual weight of the unloaded dock float. Also, to compensate for the tapered shape of the float, use 90% of the maximum flotation rating to calculate how much more of the float will be submerged. The tapered shape means the first few inches at the base of the float touching the water will have less buoyancy than the top of the float. *For example, a #46116 is a 12” high float with a flotation rating of 450 lbs. At 90% the rating is 405lbs. By dividing 405 lbs. by 12”, you can calculate the float will sink 1” for every 38 lbs. of loading placed on the float.*

Float Placement

Beyond flotation and freeboard consideration, the size and shape of the dock will dictate the quantity of floats needed. A well designed dock should have good balance and