

Breast Line

The Breast Line is a special case among dock lines in that its primary purpose is not so much to keep the boat safe, but to keep people safe. This line allows us to pull the boat up against the dock to allow crew and passengers to safely get on board and disembark. It should NOT stay tightly secured when people are not on board, but should be draped loosely over the horn on the piling to allow the boat to be pulled over to the dock for access.



Step 1

Step 1: Bring the breast line from the dock under the roller, over the top, under the cable and back to the dock.



Step 2

Step 2: Take it around the piling once, above the horn (not seen, on far side of piling.) Pull the line tight so that the boat is up against the dock.



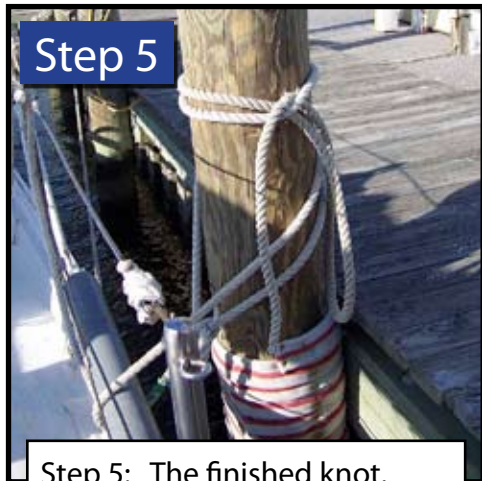
Step 3

Step 3: Keeping the line tight, take it around the piling one more time. The first wrap takes the tension, making it easier to undo the final knot, even after the boat has been pulling on the line.



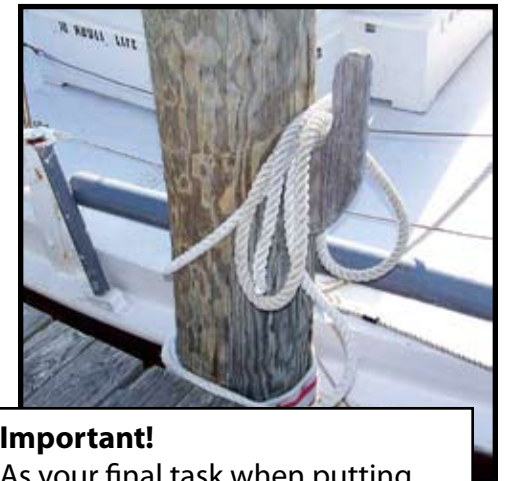
Step 4

Step 4: To secure the line, pull a loop of line through the wrap you just made on the piling and pull it up tight.



Step 5

Step 5: The finished knot. If the boat is bouncing around, the knot may slip and need to be retied to keep the boat in place.



Important!

As your final task when putting the boat to bed, be sure to take all the wraps off the piling and drape the line loosely over the horn. If left tied tight, a falling tide will leave the boat hanging from this line. The line can get so tight that it needs to be cut to release it.