

# BEACHING YOUR HOUSEBOAT

While every houseboat destination has their own rules about beaching and anchoring your houseboat it's always a good idea to beach your houseboat at least an hour before dusk. Most lakes will be too deep to properly anchor a houseboat so being able to beach your houseboat properly, safely and securely is very important. If you follow these 10 simple instructions you'll find that beaching a houseboat is easy and stressless.

1) Try to choose a cove that is well protected from wind and waves and is away from rocks. You'll also want to insure that there is a good drop off that will be deep enough at the stern (rear) of the houseboat so that it will not damage the propeller.

2) Make sure there are no sharp rocks that will damage the pontoons or the hull.

3) Another consideration is the location of the sun. Will you want shade in the afternoon or sun? The choice is important for recreation as well as comfort.

4) If your potential location is okay, approach the spot you have chosen at the slowest possible speed...900-1000 rpms. Make sure you approach the spot as straight as possible.

5) When the front of the pontoons dig into the ground, leave the motor idling in forward. This will hold the houseboat to the beach while you pound in your stakes and tie up your ropes. (If the wind or waves start to turn the boat sideways - with your engine running at low rpm in forward gear turn your wheel in the same direction the back end of the boat is turning. This will straighten the houseboat out.)

6) Hold the houseboat in this position (straight) until a crewmember has secured the mooring lines around the stakes. Make sure someone is at the helm until the boat is secure.

7) If your boat should turn sideways on the beach put the throttle in neutral. Try to push the back end of the boat out. Once the back end is far enough out, put the engine in reverse and back up. Approach the beach again as straight as possible. If you are unable to back out because of the wind, you can turn the wheel into the beach and put the boat in forward. You will pivot the boat around until it is perpendicular to the shore. You may need a person on shore holding the front corner of the boat against the shore with a rope to perform this maneuver.

8) Your stakes should be pounded in at a 45 degree angle away from both sides of your houseboat. Be sure to pound them in at an angle away from the houseboat with no more than 12-14 inches showing above the ground. (An even easier way is to use the PowerPointe Anchor System - check the next page.)

9) Pull your mooring lines around the stakes and make a loop knot. Wrap around and knot 3-4 times until the ropes are secure. It is important to leave as little slack in your ropes as possible, the snugger the better. If one side is too loose, it could result in one side of the houseboat coming up against the shore, which could result in prop and pontoon damage. After the ropes are secure push the knot as close to the ground as possible.

10) After you have tied up and turned the engine off, make sure your key is in the off position. (A key left in the on position will drain your battery.)

