

When it's time to replace your old dock, there are many options for acceptable flotation to choose from. Below are three of the most common:

High Density Polyethylene Modules

These are square or rectangular polyethylene floats or modules. Some are hollow, others are filled with foam. The design and dimensions of the dock will determine the number of modules needed. This concept makes good sense because an individual module is relatively easy to handle.

Polyethylene characteristics:

- strong enough to withstand pressure from rocks and ice better than polystyrene
- high UV tolerance
- animal and chemical resistant
- strong enough to resist normal ice conditions in protected waters
- retains structural strength in any temperatures experienced on the bay



The modules are designed to be fastened together, accept various types of decking and allow for options such as mooring cleats, ladders and ramps. This is a good choice for do-it-yourselfers.

High Density Polyethylene pontoons

The main advantage of a pontoon dock over a modular dock is strength and stability for longer docks. The pontoons are available in almost any length and being a continuous structure makes them more stable than several modules.

As with polyethylene modules, manufactures can mold in brackets for structural framing, decking, mooring hardware, ladders, ramps and other finishing options.

The round shape of the pontoons makes them very ice resistant. If they rub on rocks or ice they can better deflect the forces compared to a flat surface. The desirable polyethylene characteristics, mentioned in modular systems, apply to the pontoons.

Steel pontoons

Steel pontoons have similar characteristics to polyethylene pontoons and can be stronger and more rigid. Brackets and flanges for attaching decking and other options can be welded on as needed. If your dock is exposed to wind and waves and require heavy anchors for stability this may be the option for you.

If you are going to choose a pontoon dock spend time researching the advantages and disadvantages of both plastic and steel to decide which is best for you. They are both really good.

