

# Floating Dock Plans from RollingBarge.com



RollingBarge.com has spent the last five years building party barges, floating trailers, and floating docks, all floating on 55 gallon polyethylene barrels. In 2011 we focused our engineering talents on designing a new class of floating dock:

- As strong or stronger than conventional docks
- Lighter than steel frame or pressure treated wood frame docks
- More stable than “EZ-Dock” style poly-floats in the same dock dimensions
- Ice Proof – Anchor it on the lake and let it float up on the ice!
- Less than ½ the price of anything comparable.

## **Home Depot + Craig’s List + You!**

We have plans that allow you to easily and inexpensively build your own floating dock from materials found at any hardware store and reconditioned poly drums on Craig’s List.



This 6x16’ Floating dock cost us \$590.



- The frame of these docks is pressure treated 2x4s, 4x4s, and 1/2" plywood. The wood is screwed and glued together. The deck can be either treated plywood or 5/4x6 deck boards.
- These docks employ a plywood truss running both directions and some subtle engineering tricks that keep the weight down while dramatically improving the strength.
- The barrels are locked into place with a proprietary design that allows the dock to be lifted and trailered without concern.
- To ensure longevity, these docks are designed to keep the wood well out of the water when the dock is not loaded.



This 6x16' Floating dock weighs only 750lbs and is strong enough to be supported by the lip of just two of the barrels.

(Don't try this with conventional dock floats. ☺)

# Building Your Own Dock

It took two of us about 8 hours to build the 6x16' dock shown in the pictures above. We followed the instructions carefully and we didn't rush. Here is what you need to do to build your own floating dock:

1. **Choose Your Plan** – Pick a dock size and we will send the plan via U.S. Mail.



2. **Hit the Hardware Store** – You will receive a shopping list that tells you exactly what size and length lumber to buy, type and quantity of glue, etc...

3. **Find your Barrels** – Craig's List is a great place to start. Barrels used for food are the safest, but any reconditioned barrels that have been "triple rinsed" are usually fine. Our plans are designed to work with all barrel sizes.



4. **Cut Your Wood** – Your plans will include a cut list that shows what lengths to cut each piece of lumber. A standard hand circular saw is sufficient.

5. **Layout the Frame** – We recommend you assemble your frame on a flat concrete pad or wooden deck. Your plans will show how the frame members are positioned.



6. **Glue and Screw** – While not necessary, using Gorilla Glue® on all the frame joints before they are screwed will significantly improve the life of your dock. A standard cordless drill is all you need to drive the deck screws and with "auger point" screws, you do not need to pre-drill.

7. **Attach the Deck** – The deck does not need to be glued, but simply screwed into place.



8. **Install the Barrels** – If you have enough help, we recommend flipping the dock upside down to install the barrels. Your plans will estimate your finished weight, so just make sure you can flip back over after the barrels are added. Otherwise you can jack the dock up on blocks and install the barrels from the bottom.

9. **Launch the Dock!** – If you are near the water, invite your buddies over to walk it down to the lake. We figure one person for every 75-100 lbs of dock. Otherwise, load it on to a flat bed trailer and back it down to the water.



## How much does it cost?

Dock Size	Price including Shipping
6x16' Plans	\$75
8x12' Plans	\$75
Stainless Screws For Plywood Deck	\$105
Stainless Steel Screws For Board Deck	\$115



Below is a list of all the parts you need to build a 6x16' floating dock. We recommend stainless steel deck screws for their strength and corrosion resistance. These are often hard to find and usually quite expensive, so we have purchased them in bulk and offer them for a very reasonable price.

<b>Shopping List for 6x16' Floating Dock</b>					
(Sample Prices are for Dallas TX)					
Description	Source	Length (feet)	Quantity	\$ Each	\$ Total
2x4 Pressure Treated	Home Depot	8	7	\$3.00	\$21.00
2x4 Pressure Treated	Home Depot	10	4	\$5.00	\$20.00
2x4 Pressure Treated	Home Depot	12	5	\$6.00	\$30.00
4x4 Pressure Treated	Home Depot	10	1	\$14.00	\$14.00
1/2" Plywood Pressure Treated	Home Depot	4x8	4	\$25.00	\$100.00
Gorilla Glue	Home Depot	18 oz	2	\$6.00	\$12.00
Reconditioned 55 Gallon Plastic Drums	Craig's List	3x2	10	\$15.00	\$150.00
#10 Stainless Steel Screws	RollingBarge.com	3"	210	\$0.15	\$31.94
#8 Stainless Steel Screws	RollingBarge.com	2"	485	\$0.07	\$34.05
#8 Stainless Steel Screws	RollingBarge.com	1"	70	\$0.07	\$4.91
Dock Plans and Instructional Videos	RollingBarge.com		1	\$75.00	\$75.00
	<b>Total without Deck</b>				<b>\$492.90</b>
<b>Also buy these parts if you are using a Plywood Deck:</b>					
1/2" Plywood Pressure Treated	Home Depot	4x8	3	\$25.00	\$75.00
2x4 Pressure Treated	Home Depot	8	2	\$3.00	\$6.00
2" #8 SS Deck Screws	RollingBarge.com	2"	284	\$0.07	\$19.94
<b>Also buy these parts if you are using a Board Deck:</b>					
5/4 x 6 Standard Treated Decking	Home Depot	12	17	\$7.00	\$119.00
5/4 x 6 Premium Treated Decking	Home Depot	12	17	\$13.00	\$221.00
#8 Stainless Steel Deck Screws	RollingBarge.com	2.5"	292	\$0.10	\$29.61
<i>Approximate Weight with Plywood Deck = 750 lbs</i>	<b>Total with Plywood Deck</b>				<b>\$587.84</b>
<i>Approximate Weight with Board Deck = 900 lbs</i>	<b>Total with Standard Board Deck</b>				<b>\$641.51</b>
	<b>Total with Premium Board Deck</b>				<b>\$743.51</b>

## Turn your dock into a boat!



### MAXIMUM CAPACITIES

**11** PERSONS OR 1550 LBS

1800 LBS PERSONS, MOTOR, & GEAR.  
15 HP MOTOR

THIS BOAT COMPLIES WITH THE U.S. COAST GUARD SAFETY  
STANDARDS IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF CERTIFICATION

ROLLING BOAT, INC.  
ESTACADA, OREGON 503-631-7539

Just like with our aluminum docks, your wooden dock can be outfitted with a transom and registered as a boat. Contact us for pricing.

## Permits a Problem?



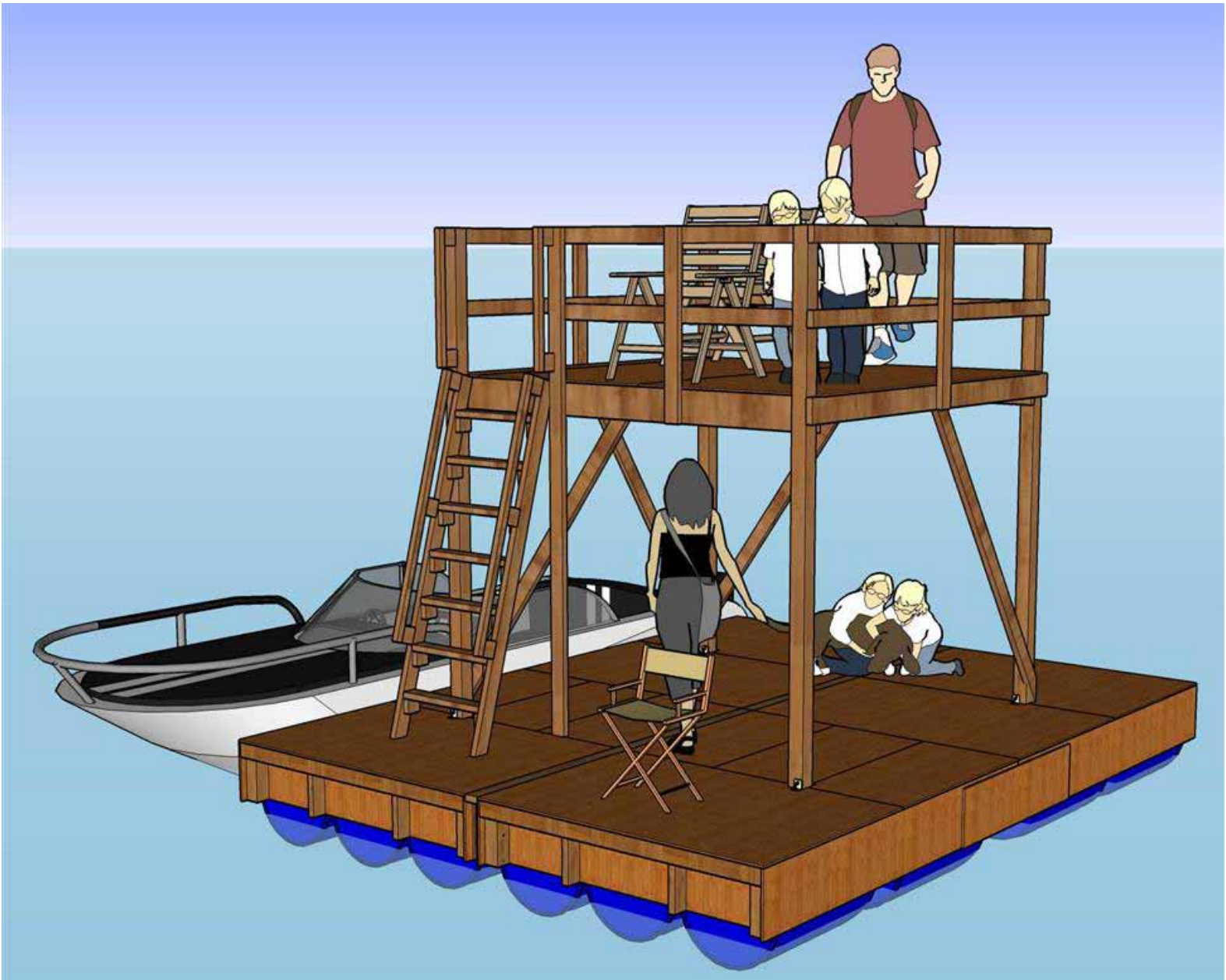
Often a boat can be parked in front of your property without the permits normally required for a dock. Consult your local laws.

Join the happy people that have built themselves a quality floating dock with plans from RollingBarge.com!

[sales@RollingBarge.com](mailto:sales@RollingBarge.com)  
503-631-7539  
[www.RollingBarge.com](http://www.RollingBarge.com)



# Custom Designs Available



The above dock is actually three separate pieces. Two standard 6x16' floating dock sections are bolted together on the water and then a 2<sup>nd</sup> story is bolted to the top of them. This is currently still on the drawing board, many different designs are possible, so let us know what you want!