

# UPFFRONT.COM SMARTSAILING GUIDE

A GUIDE TO MOORING LINES

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# HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT MOORING LINE FOR YOUR BOAT

Arguably, one of the most important pieces of kit onboard your boat is a mooring line; it's all well and good having a great boat, but if you can't safely secure it at the quay, harbour or pier then you're in real trouble. So, it's important that your mooring lines can reliably hold the weight of your boat and are of good quality. Here, we tell you what you need to look out for when choosing mooring lines.

## Things to consider:

### Length:

When calculating the length of your mooring line, it is possible to follow a general rule of thumb. For bow lines and stern lines, the length of the line should be at least half the length of your boat. For spring lines, the length should be the full length of the boat – or longer. When mooring to a fixed dock, it is important to remember that the length of your mooring lines should allow for the fluctuation of the tide.

In addition, it is our advice to always carry a longer line on board your boat - around 5 boat lengths long. This line will come in useful in towing scenarios, or will provide great help when conditions are heavy in the harbour.

### Diameter:

Regarding the diameter of mooring lines, the recommended diameters (in mm) of polyester or polyamide mooring lines for boats from 26ft – 62ft are as follows:

BOAT LENGTH (ft)	DIAMETER (mm)
26	10
33	12
39	14
46	16
53	18
62	20



However, if your boat is particularly heavy in respect to its length then it is advisable to select a mooring line that is one size greater in diameter. Mooring lines with a larger diameter can also be easier on your hands, but it is important to note that thicker rope can be more difficult to manoeuvre

#### Material:

In terms of material, lightweight and robust synthetic fabrics are ideal for mooring lines. Whilst polypropylene presents a cheaper option, polyester or polyamide are known for providing high quality and durable mooring lines that represent great value for money.

Other beneficial qualities of polyester and polyamide include: strength, chafe resistance, longevity, UV stability and the ability to resist deterioration when wet. To overcome chafing, it is also possible to cover the ends of the mooring line in leather or canvas to further increase chafe resistance.



#### Summary:

Overall, when selecting a new mooring line, it is important to value quality over price. Mooring lines are worth the investment – don't risk an expensive yacht with a subpar line. A superior quality, durable material will also ensure you purchase fewer mooring lines over time. Make sure to use the above table to select the correct diameter, and the general rules of thumb to select the correct lengths for your boat. We recommend you carry x3 lines at full boat length and x3 lines at half boat length to cover the majority of mooring scenarios.

Do you have any questions about mooring lines, or running rigging? Get in touch with us at [support@upffront.com](mailto:support@upffront.com).