



FENDERS GUIDE

BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE ON
FENDER SIZING AND QUANTITY



Types of Fender

Cylindrical Fenders

Cylindrical fenders are the most common fenders, suitable for hanging off the side of the hull. These fenders can be hung vertically when mooring against docks or other flat structures, alternatively, they can also be hung horizontally to avoid collisions with pilings and other protruding structures, or to prevent roll off.



Round Fenders

Round fenders are great for protecting areas of the boat that may be further from the dock, such as the stern or bow, because they cover a much larger surface area. It's also a good idea to have a round fender on hand to protect against other boats or obstructions during manoeuvres.



Flat Fenders

Finding popularity in race boat world, there are an increasing number of flat fender options available on the market. Similar to cylindrical fenders, flat fenders are suitable for hanging from the hull in either a horizontal or vertical position. They are more compact than cylindrical fenders, do not suffer from rolling around and they are even a comfortable retrofit bed to sleep on when racing offshore!!



Fender Sizing Guide

How big should my fenders be?

The rule of thumb is that a cylindrical fender should have approx. 3 cm of diameter for every 1.5 metres of boat length. A round fender should have approx. 6cm of diameter for every 1.5 metres of boat length. You may need to adjust this if you are mooring in particularly challenging conditions or if your boat is particularly heavy.

How many fenders do I need?

We recommend all boats carry a minimum of 3 fenders and at least 1 fender for every 10 feet of waterline length. Therefore a 20ft boat should have 3 and a 40ft boat should have 4 fenders, as a minimum

There are three important variables to consider when choosing which fenders, and how many, to choose for your boat; length, weight and mooring conditions. The following table is only a very general guideline, based on a medium displacement mono-hull.

Boat Length (m)	Cylindrical / Flat Fender Diameter (cm)	Round Fender Diameter (cm)	Recommended Number of Fenders
Under 5m	10	20	3
6	12	24	3
8	15	30	4
10	20	40	4
12	25	50	5
14	30	60	5
16	35	70	6
18	40	80	7

Most fenders are relatively lightweight and cheap when compared to the damage that could come from not having enough, so it's always better to have too many than too few!

For more information, [read our full Fender sizing blog](#). Or if you have any questions, please contact us at support@upffront.com