

Fender Care Checklist

Cold Water (Winterizing) vs. Warm Water (Year-Round Maintenance)

COLD WATER / WINTERIZING

☐ Deflate If Storing (Optional)

Deflating saves space but isn't required. Do it on a day above 40°F and store fenders loosely, without tight folds.

☐ Clean, Rinse, and Dry

Wash with mild marine soap and warm water to remove salt, grime, and bio-fouling. Rinse with fresh water and let everything dry fully to prevent mold and mildew.

☐ Desalinate Your Lines

Soak dock lines in fresh water to dissolve trapped salt, then hang them to dry completely before coiling.

☐ Inspect Lines Before Storage

Look for chafe points where lines meet cleats and pilings before packing them away.

☐ Keep Valves Clear

Remove debris from valves so the seal stays tight.

☐ Store Smart

Choose a dark, dry, climate-controlled space away from freezing drafts, heat sources, and fuel vapors. Keep lines in mesh bags for airflow.

WARM WATER / YEAR-ROUND

☐ Monitor Pressure

Heat causes air to expand. Check after the hottest part of the day and keep fenders within 1–2 PSI. A finger press should compress the wall about 1/2 inch; if it feels very hard, let some air out.

☐ Rinse Weekly

Rinse fenders, covers, valves, and D-rings with fresh water weekly or after each trip to stop salt crystal buildup.

☐ Shield From UV

Use UV-resistant covers and protective marine sprays made for inflatable fenders.

☐ Watch for UV Wear

Tacky surfaces and faded color are signs that UV exposure is breaking down the material.

☐ Inspect Lines Often

Check for stiffness, glazed fibers, core compression, and fraying at cleats and hawse pipes. Replace lines with significant wear.

☐ Rotate Dock Lines

Rotate lines periodically so wear spreads evenly across your docking setup.

☐ Both Climates: Avoid Harsh Chemicals

Do not use strong solvents, which can reduce the service life of PVC and other polymers.

Read the full article: [Cold Water, Warm Water: How Your Off-Season Really Looks](#)