Docking in Wind and Current Checklist

Before the Final Approach

- [ ] Make a slow pass near your slip
- [ ] Identify the stronger force, wind or current
- [ ] Note whether it's pushing you toward the dock or away from it
- [ ] Set fenders and ready lines before the final approach

On the Approach

- [ ] Match your approach angle to the wind direction
- [ ] Get a line on early when wind pushes you off the dock
- [ ] Approach into the current whenever you can
- [ ] Allow extra stopping distance with current behind you
- [ ] Abort and reset at low speed when the boat stops following your plan

Approach Angles at a Glance

Wind direction	Approach	Key move
Toward the dock	Shallow, roughly 10 to 20 degrees	Cut power and let the wind press the hull in
Away from the dock	45 degrees or steeper	Get a line on early and pivot the stern in on an after bow spring
Along the dock, from ahead	Shallow, into the wind	Let the wind take off your last bit of speed
Along the dock, from astern	Land short of your spot	Keep reverse ready and get a midship spring on

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