

Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club

Sailboat Mast Up Storage Best Practices

1. The RKYC is prepared to allow mast up storage.
2. The RKYC will store boats with masts up in a separate area of the yard. As a result, available launch and haulout dates may be restricted.
3. The RKYC recommends the following best practices for storing a sailboat with its mast up:
 - a. Sailboats stored in the yard should have a minimum number of pads (or equivalent) supporting the boat on each side as stated below. The pads should be as evenly distributed over the length of the boat as possible. The pads can be a combination of supports built into the cradle as well as jack stands or similar.
 - i. < 30' LOA - Minimum 3 pads per side
 - ii. 30' – 38' LOA - Minimum 4 pads per side
 - iii. 38' – 45' LOA - Minimum 5 pads per side
 - iv. > 45' LOA - Determined on a case by case basis
 - b. A minimum of one halyard per side should be run and tensioned to a nearby structure to support the top of the mast. Structures may include other boat cradles, concrete blocks, etc. It is recommended that a separate line be attached to the end of the halyard and that the halyard be hoisted to the top of the mast to limit UV exposure to halyards while in storage.
 - c. Owners should try to eliminate windage on the mast as much as possible by removing all sails and any “removable” items on the mast.
 - d. All running rigging should be secured to eliminate slapping on the mast from wind action.
 - e. Prior to winter storage, owners should inspect the rigging to look for any components of the rigging system that show signs of damage, cracking or fatigue. Any deficiencies should be repaired.
 - f. It is recommended that owners seal the mast (keel stepped masts) as well as possible to reduce the amount of water that can enter the boat through the mast. Boats should be checked regularly to ensure that ice does not build up in the bilge.

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