

# Dock Installation Tips

By Seth Merriam

## Stationary Frame

Our stationary dock sections come in a few different sizes and can be set up in many configuration using all of the same size or a combination of sizes.

Each section has four corner sockets with set screws where 1.5" schedule 40 galvanized pipe is to be installed. This pipe is an industry standard and available just about anywhere.

If you ordered your frames with removable decking panels, you can remove the decking for setting up the empty light weight frame.

Your first dock section should be set up like a table with 4 legs.

The section needs to be held level while installing the pipe legs.

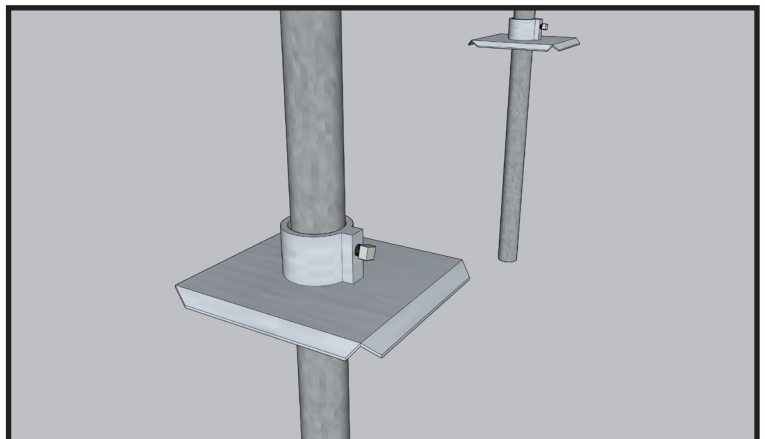
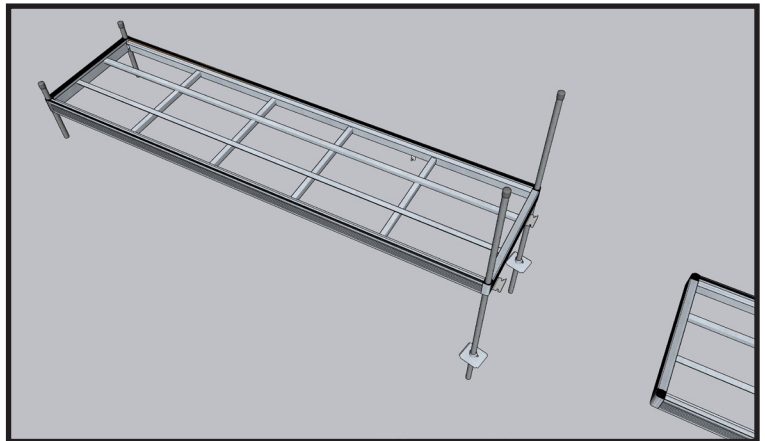
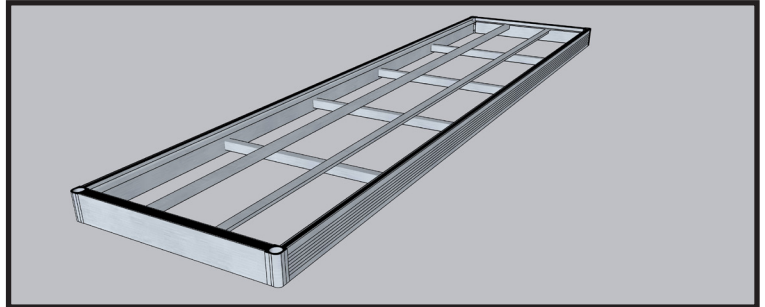
Whether setting up a DuraLITE, FeatherLITE or a wood stationary dock with Great Northern Docks pipe brackets, a jack pole with pipe foot and leveling winch is a tool installers use to hold up the end of the dock frames while they install the legs or adjust the dock height.

## Pipe feet

These can be used where the pipe alone will settle in the soil but may not be needed in all situations.

Some installers drive the pipe without the pipe feet if the soil is firm enough.

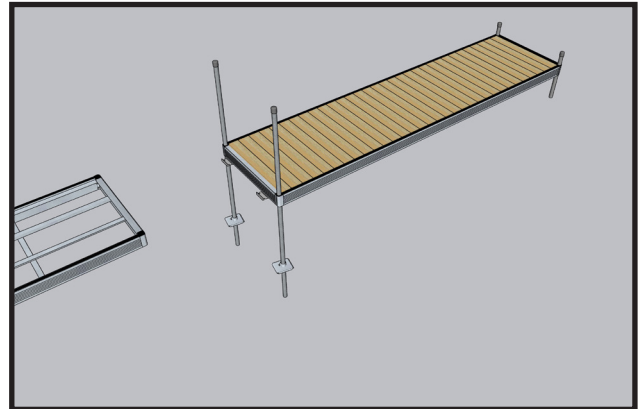
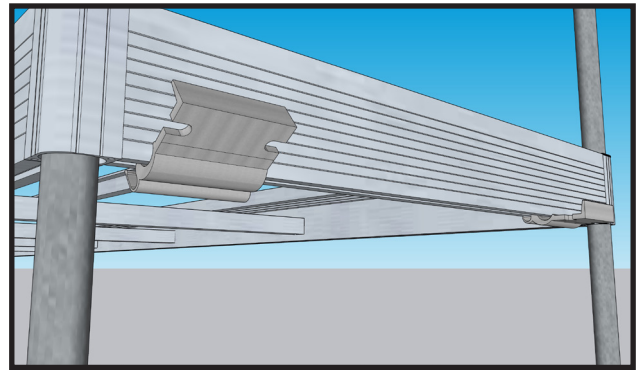
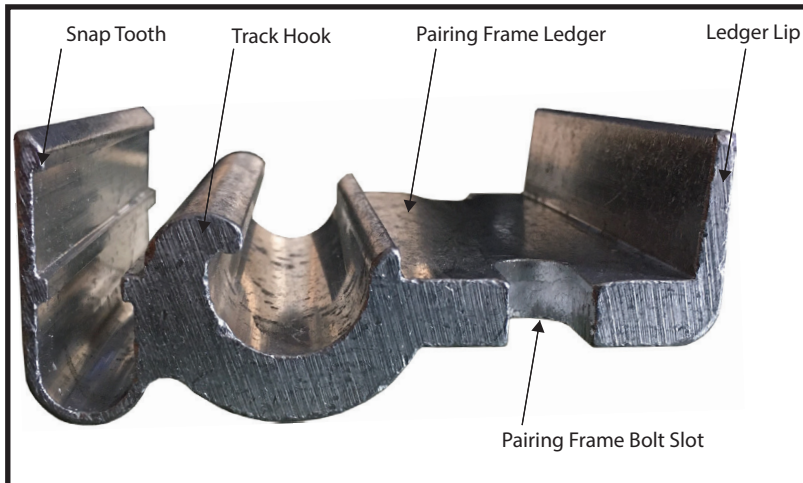
Once the first section is installed it becomes the building platform for the attachment of additional dock sections.



## J- Bracket Connectors

For stationary connections on Dura-LITE and Feather-LITE we use the J-brackets for connect dock sections. To attach these to the first dock section, start by feeding the track hook into the bottom track of the stationary DuraLITE or FeatherLITE frame. The ledger will be on the outside of the frame to support the connecting section. Rotate the J-bracket from angled up to down feeding the Track hook into the track until the snap tooth clicks on the inner side of your dock frame. On a 4' wide dock we use 2 J-brackets and on a 6' wide we use 3 J-brackets.

Once the first dock frame is set up, the removable decking panels can go back in the dock frame.



**J-Bracket Diagram**

Hoist on the second section up on the pairing frame ledger. The ledger lip will help prevent it from slipping off. Then raise the outer end of the attaching section until it is level, secure the frame by bolting into the two outmost slots on the J-Brackets then install the pipe legs.

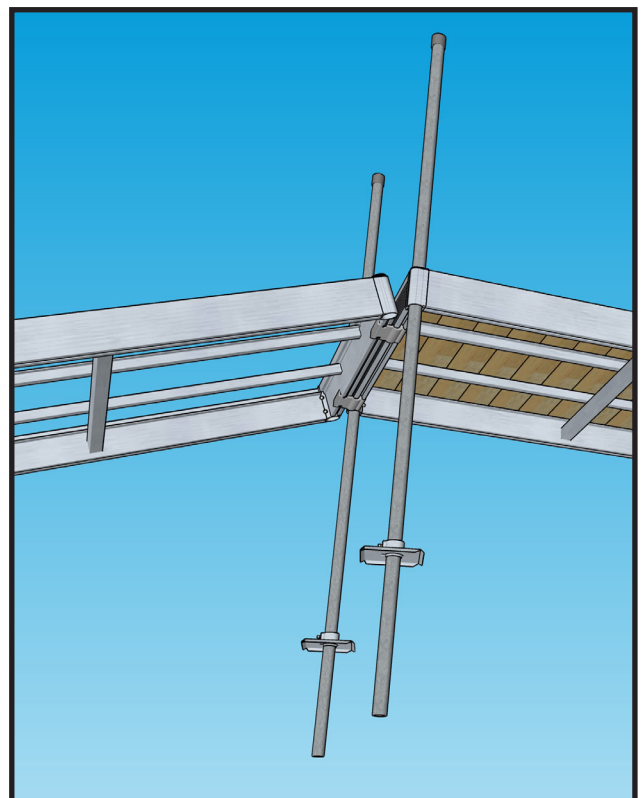
Cross braces are available for deep water applications to prevent shaking.

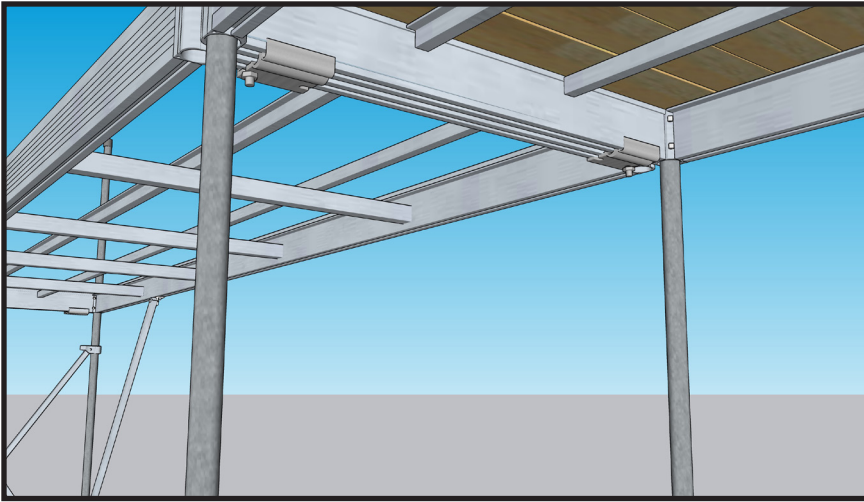
The use of a jack pole and leveling winch can assist to hold the end of the frame level while installing the legs.

Pipes legs can be driven in the ground and the pipe feet do allow the pipe to pass through them.

Pipe feet contain set screws to secure them at the desired level.

The deeper the pipes are driven if at all, the stronger and more stable the dock will be.





This drawing shows the carriage in place when the second section is raised to level for installing the legs.

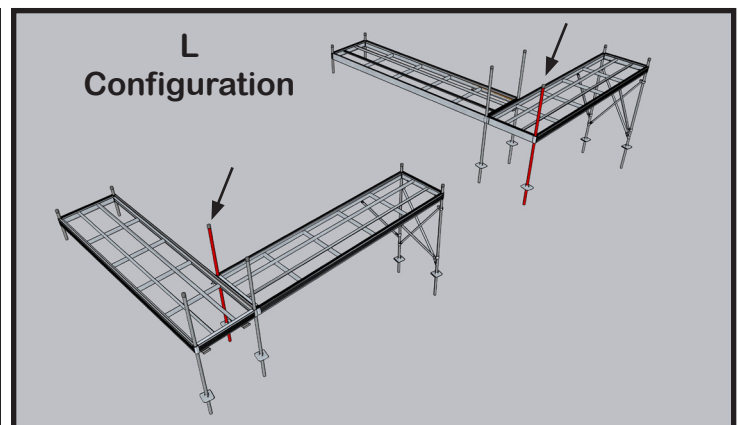
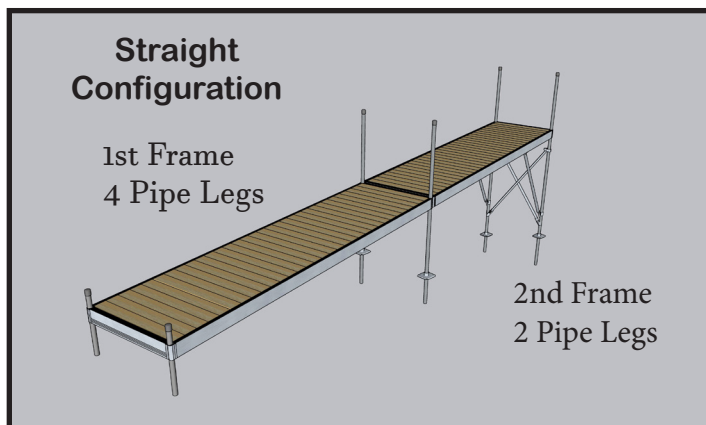
**Carriage Bolt  
Track Slot**



A carriage bolt track slot is provided on the bottom edge next to each pipe socket for all sides of the dock frame.

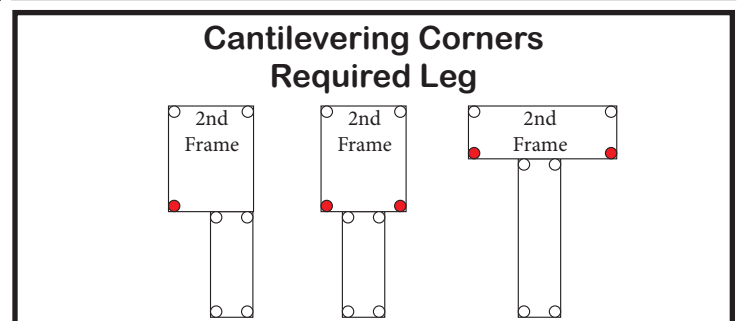
During removal do the same steps in reverse by supporting the outer end of the frame in it's level position with the leveling winch and jack pole in place while removing the pipe legs. The bolts at the J-brackets are taken out before tilting and lowering for seasonal removal.

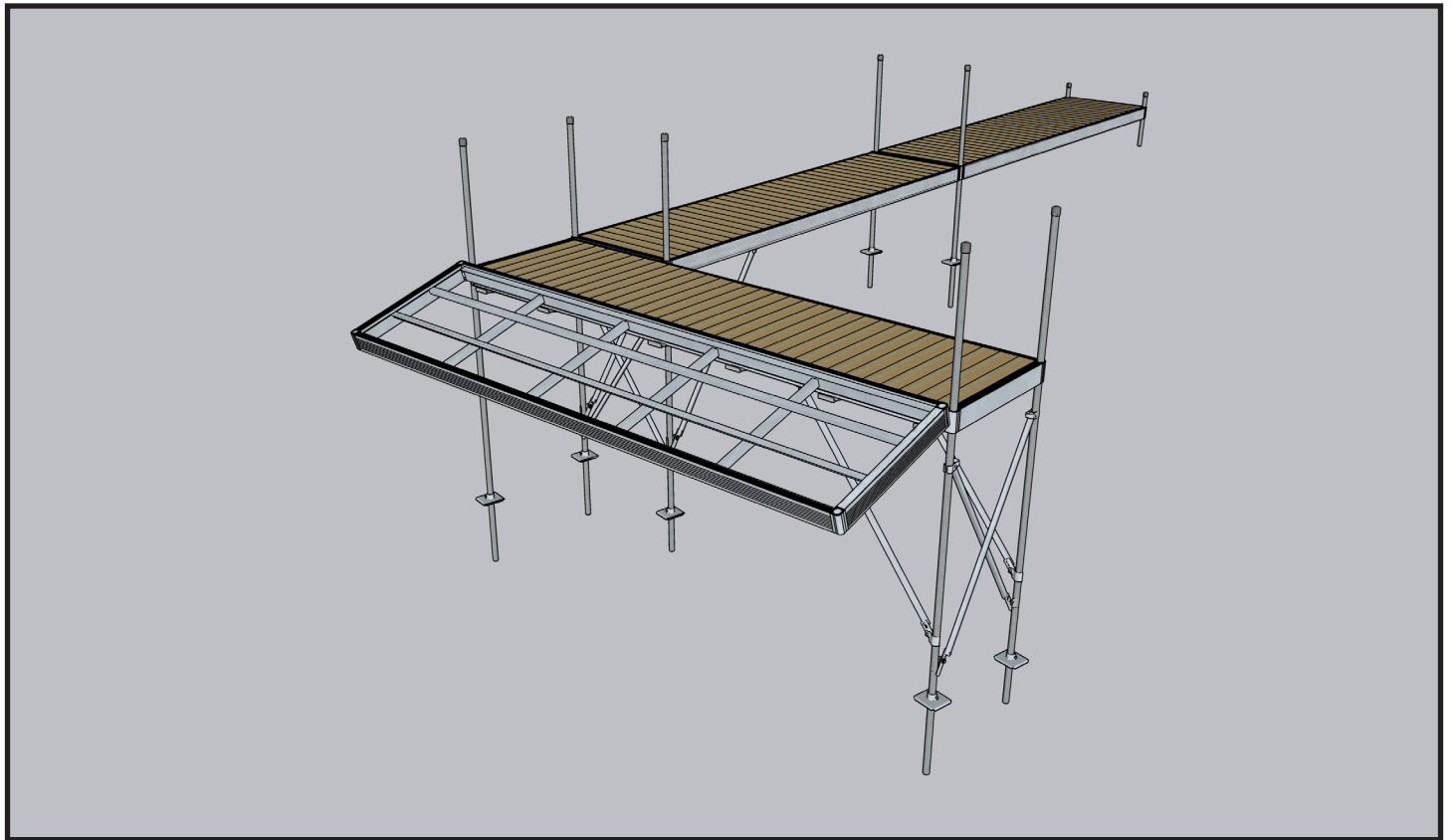
If first two frames are a straight configuration, 6 legs are required. Four legs go in the first frame like a table and two legs are in the second frame. If first two frames are an L configuration, 7 legs are required. Four legs go in the first frame like a table and three legs are in the second frame.



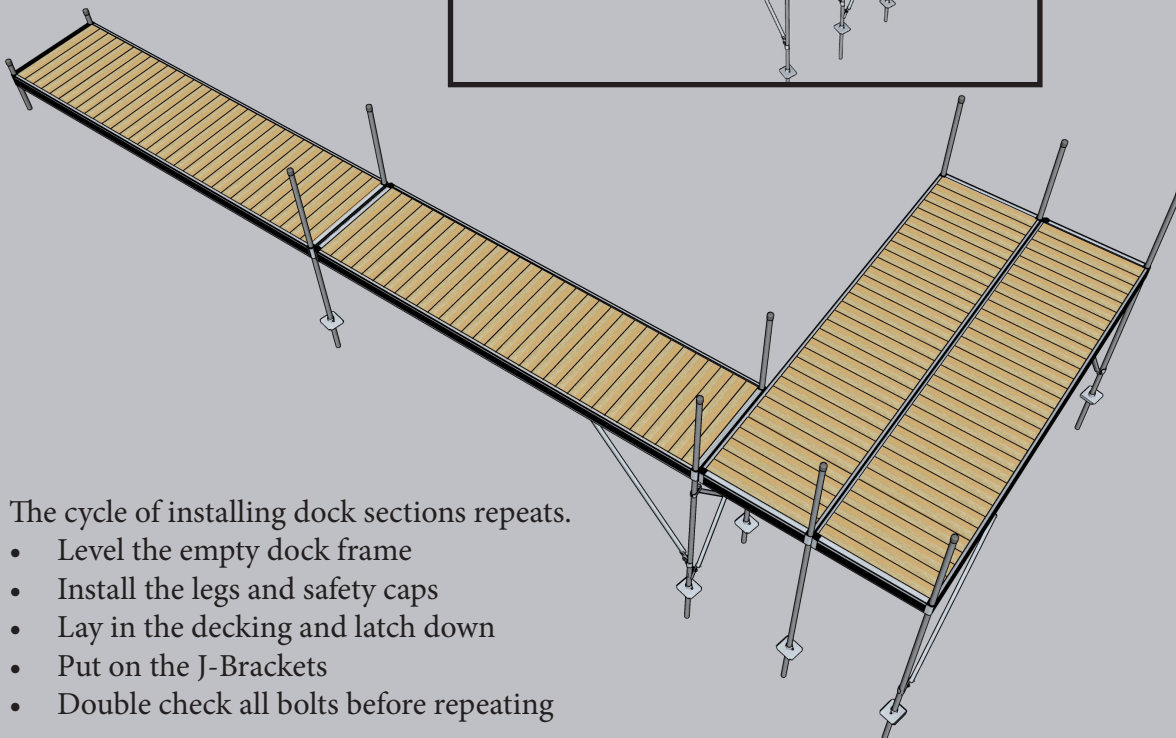
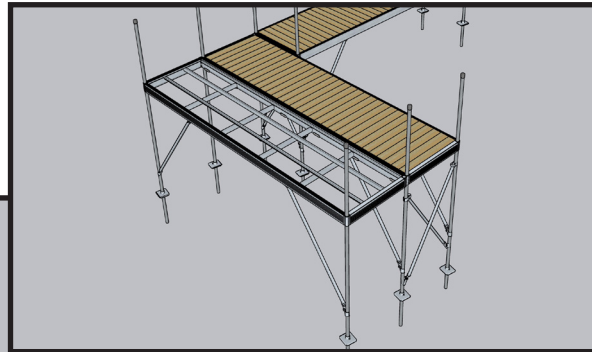
Any corners that are cantilevering will need a pipe leg installed. An example would be when you have a narrow section connecting to a wide section.

The aluminum dock frames can be joined end to end, side to side or end to side.





*Removing the decking from your dock frames makes it easier and safer to install them. Decking adds weight and should be installed once the frames are secured on pipe legs.*



The cycle of installing dock sections repeats.

- Level the empty dock frame
- Install the legs and safety caps
- Lay in the decking and latch down
- Put on the J-Brackets
- Double check all bolts before repeating