



City of Charleston

WATERCRAFT AND FLOATING STRUCTURES MOORING AND ANCHORING PERMIT APPLICATION

In accordance with City of Charleston Ordinance 21-70, any watercraft or floating structure that remains moored, anchored, or otherwise located in any one five-mile radius on the waters of the City of Charleston for more than fourteen consecutive days must obtain a permit from the Charleston Police Department. The cost of the permit is \$15 and must be renewed every 60 days.

Please review Ordinance 21-70 in its entirety for exceptions, location restrictions, requirements, and penalties. If any part of this application is changed, you must notify the city within 24 hours. Changes to the permit and questions can be sent to CPD-HarborPatrol@charleston-sc.gov

OWNER INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION (IF NOT ACTUAL OWNER):

NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

WATERCRAFT OR FLOATING STRUCTURE INFORMATION:

GPS COORDINATES: _____

PERMIT IS FOR A: WATERCRAFT FLOATING STRUCTURE

THE WATERCRAFT OR FLOATING STRUCTURE WILL BE: MOORED ANCHORED

THE WATERCRAFT OR FLOATING STRUCTURE WILL BE SLEPT ON OR LIVED ON: YES NO

MANUFACTURER: _____ YEAR OF MANUFACTURE: _____ MODEL: _____

LENGTH: _____ BEAM OR WIDTH: _____ COLOR(S): _____

HULL MATERIAL (WOOD, FIBERGLASS, METAL, ETC.): _____

HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: _____

ANY AND ALL TYPES OF WORKING PROPULSION (SAIL, GAS, DIESEL, ETC.): _____

IF FEDERALLY DOCUMENTED:

NAME OF VESSEL: _____

HAILING PORT: _____

FEDERAL DOCUMENTATION NUMBER:

IF STATE REGISTERED:

STATE OF REGISTRATION: _____

STATE REGISTRATION NUMBERS:

WATERCRAFT OR FLOATING STRUCTURE INSURANCE INFORMATION:

(Permitted watercraft and floating structures must have an active liability insurance policy of \$300,000 or more)

INSURANCE COMPANY: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

POLICY NUMBER: _____ CURRENT POLICY VALID UNTIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

(Emergency contacts must be able to respond to and have authority to take action on a vessel within 24 hours if contacted by the City or other government agency)

NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT):

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

IF THE VESSEL WILL BE SLEPT ON OR LIVED ON:

DESCRIBE YOUR PLAN, EQUIPMENT, AND/OR SERVICE BEING USED FOR HANDLING OF HUMAN WASTE:

DESCRIBE YOUR PROVISIONS FOR THE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE AND OTHER WASTE:

IF WATERCRAFT OR FLOATING STRUCTURE IS AFFIXED TO A MOORING BALL OR BUOY OR OTHERWISE NOT ANCHORED:

MOORING BALL OR BUOY OR STRUCTURE OWNER'S NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT):

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

EMERGENCY PLAN:

DETAIL YOUR PLAN TO SAFELY SECURE THE VESSEL DURING A NAMED STORM, HURRICANE, OR OTHER INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITION:

ATTESTATION:

(Please initial)

_____ ***"I attest that this watercraft or floating structure is neither derelict nor abandoned."***

ATTACHMENTS:

Please attach the following:

1. Proof of Ownership
2. Proof of State Registration or Federal Documentation
3. Proof of Liability Insurance
4. Picture of Watercraft or Floating Structure

SIGNATURE

By signing, you agree to be held responsible for violations of City of Charleston Ordinance 21-70 and the terms and conditions of this permit.

SIGN HERE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the City of Charleston Police Department Harbor Patrol at CPD-HarborPatrol@charleston-sc.gov

Sec. 21-70 Mooring Permit Required to Moor or Anchor Within Territorial Limits of the City.

- (1) Any watercraft or floating structure that remains moored, anchored, or otherwise located in any one five-mile radius on the waters of the City of Charleston for more than fourteen consecutive days must obtain a permit from the Charleston Police Department.
- (2) Pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 50-21-30(C)(2) notwithstanding South Carolina Code Section 5-7-140(B) the City's corporate limits where bordering on the high-water mark of a navigable body of water, other than the Atlantic Ocean, are extended to the center of the channel of the navigable body of water for the sole purpose of enforcing this section.
- (3) A person applying for a permit must provide the following information:
 - A) Proof of ownership;
 - B) Proof of current insurance;
 - C) Proof of state registration or federal documentation;
 - D) Name, address and telephone number of the owner or permit holder of the mooring buoy;
 - E) Name, address, and telephone number of a local contact
 - F) Description of mooring or anchoring technique, and explanation of its adequacy for the location;
 - G) Attestation that the vessel is neither derelict or abandoned;
 - H) GPS location.
 - I) An emergency plan detailing the plan to safely secure the vessel during a named storm, hurricane, or other inclement weather condition
 - J) Attestation of whether or not the vessel will be slept on, and, if slept on, a plan detailing regular weekly pump-outs and provisions for the storage and disposal of any garbage or other waste
- (4) The cost of the permit shall not be more than \$15.00.
- (5) The person applying for the permit is legally responsible for violations of this ordinance.
- (6) Exceptions: this permit requirement does not apply to watercraft or floating structures:
 - (A) moored to a dock or marina berth with permission from the dock or berth owner;
 - (B) moored to a mooring buoy that is permitted by DHEC with permission from the buoy owner; or
 - (C) moored to a mooring buoy with permission from the buoy owner, provided that the buoy is in the location as it existed on public waters on June 30, 2021.
- (7) Permit regulations.
 - (A) Permitted watercraft and floating structures:
 - (1) may only be moored or anchored in the area provided on the permit;
 - (2) may not be anchored or moored within 500 yards of a boat landing, community dock, public bridge, or marina, except for vessels within the established Ashley River Special Anchorage or with express written permission of the owner of the boat landing, community dock, or marina;
 - (3) may not be moored or anchored or able to swing within 100 feet of any other legally anchored or moored watercraft or floating structures or permitted mooring, dock or marina without written permission of the owner;
 - (4) must display current state, federal, or foreign registration, and must provide official documentation of registration and ownership if requested by a City police or code enforcement officer;
 - (5) must be kept free of litter, debris, barnacles, algae, and other unsightly growth. This requirement applies not only to removal of loose litter, but to materials that already are, or become, trapped or pinned against watercraft and floating structures.
 - (6) must not be unsightly, derelict, abandoned, neglected, or substantially dismantled, or improperly maintained, or be unable to be used for navigation as intended;
 - (7) must not be listing, aground, sinking, breaking its mooring or anchor, dragging its mooring or anchor, or at risk of any of these, or is otherwise unsuccessfully, improperly, or unsafely moored or anchored;

- (8) must have a contact listed on the permit able to respond to the watercraft or floating structure within 24 hours of a police or code enforcement officer or other government agency contacting or attempting to make contact;
- (9) must be equipped with a holding tank if slept on, and the owner must provide a police or code officer with proof of regular weekly pump-outs upon request;
- (10) must have provisions for the storage and disposal of any garbage or other waste which is generated or accumulates;
- (11) must display proper anchor light unless located within the Ashley River Special Anchorage, and must comply with Federal and State safety equipment requirements;
- (12) must be properly secured during hurricanes and storms to prevent damage to others' property;
- (13) must remain in the area provided on the permit unless the permit holder notifies the Police Department, and the relocation is approved and amended on the permit
- (14) must have liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 and provide proof if requested by a City police or code enforcement officer;

(8) **Permit Denial or Revocation**

- A. Permits may be denied for non-compliance with the provisions of this Division or other Federal, State, County or City laws governing or related to the watercraft or floating structure;
- B. If a permit is denied a person may reapply for a permit once they are in compliance with the provisions of this Division and other federal, state, county and City laws governing or related to the watercraft or floating structure.
- C. Permits may be denied or revoked for violations of this Division or other federal, state, county or City laws governing or related to the watercraft or floating structure, as well as, violations of federal state, county or City laws committed on or involving the watercraft or floating structure.
- D. A person who is denied or revoked for two or more violations of this Division or other federal state, county or City laws governing or related to the watercraft or floating structure, or violation of federal, state, county or City laws committed on or involving the watercraft or floating structure shall be ineligible to apply for a permit for a period of one year from the date of the second violation.
- E. A person who is denied a permit or has their permit revoked may appeal the decision to the Committee on Public Safety by filing written notice with the Clerk of Council within 10 days of being notified of the denial or revocation.

(9) **Renewal and Changes to Permit**

- A. Permits must be renewed every 60 days.
- B. Permit holders must notify the Police Department within 24 hours of any changes to the information provided in the permit application.

(10) **Illegal Mooring and Anchoring**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any watercraft or floating structure to remain moored, anchored, or otherwise located in any one five-mile radius on the waters of the City of Charleston for more than fourteen consecutive days without first obtaining a permit from the Charleston Police Department as set forth above.
- B. It shall be unlawful to attach a watercraft or floating structure to a mooring ball, dock, or other floating structure without the express permission of the owner.
- C. It shall be unlawful to attach a watercraft or floating structure to a mooring ball, dock, or other floating structure marked for law enforcement purposes or other use by the City.
- D. A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or serve a term not exceeding thirty (30) days in jail or both. Each day a violation of this section thereof shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.