

## Dismantling Your Old Dock

By Peter Adams of the South Channel Association and member of the Say 'No' to Dock Foam Committee

Dismantling an old foam dock is no simple task. Considerations have to be given to safety, handling the material and proper disposal.

Visit the Township Of The Archipelago (TOA) website to learn about dock disposal. (If you are not in TOA, consult your own municipality)

<https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/accepted-items-and-fees-1>

- on left side of page click on "accepted items and fees"
- scroll down, click on "dock structures"

You will be exposed to rusty nails, splintered and heavy wood, and foam billets often covered with zebra mussels. Make sure you have eye protection, gloves and adequate footwear. Your safety is your own responsibility

Tool options:

- cordless drill or impact driver for removing screws
- pry bar for removing decking and skirting/joists
- hammer and nail puller for removing nails and screws
- reciprocating saw for cutting dimensional lumber and billets into short lengths

**Move dock to where there's room to sort the various components.** Give consideration to how and where they'll be loaded into a boat for transport to the transfer station.

**Determine if any components can be reused.** Decking on old docks was often cut from old growth, red cedar from BC. If you can, salvage and repurpose cedar decking or dimensional lumber.

As you remove decking and skirting **pull old nails and screws as you go.** You don't want anyone to get a cut or puncture from a rusty nail or screw. Put nails and screws and other steel hardware in a container ready for the steel bin at the transfer station.

**Cut all dimension lumber to short lengths (4' to 6').** This will make loading and unloading easier. Another benefit is that it will lie flatter and take up less space in bins at the transfer station. This allows more materials into the bins plus saving on transport costs for the TOA.

The foam billets will likely be waterlogged and heavy so cut them into small pieces. Foam breaks down with time and the outer edges will often flake off like saw dust. **Having large garbage bags or tarps ready for loading will keep small pieces of foam out of the water,** keep your boat cleaner and ease the process of getting the foam into a bin at the transfer station. Bottoms of the billets may be covered with zebra muscles. The muscles are very sharp so gloves are a must when handling.