

# Falmouth Harbour Mooring Strops

## Frequently Asked Questions



**FALMOUTH  
HARBOUR**

UK's Atlantic gateway.

In 2023, Falmouth Harbour updated the way we provide mooring strops to our mooring license holders. The primary objective of this change, was to increase safety for all customers on our moorings, and to ensure our operations are fully compliant with our Port Marine Safety Code ([PMSC](#)) responsibilities. We now manage the full provision of the mooring, which includes the mooring strop. This allows much greater quality control and was key in the Summer 2023 season being recorded as our safest to date. This approach will also result in better customer services as vessel damage will be reduced with reduced failure.

As a valued customer of Falmouth Harbour you now hire an allocated mooring as a complete set up and chain strops are included in the mooring hire fee. If you choose to have a rope strop, then you will have to hire the allocated mooring as well as the specified strop for your vessel, on a seasonal basis. Falmouth Harbour will supply, for each season either; a fully serviced and inspected strop or, a brand-new strop should the existing one not pass inspection, all for the same seasonal hire fee. Falmouth Harbour now manages the full strop cycle from, supply and production, fitting, safety checks during the season, removal, cleaning, and storage. The seasonal hire fee covers the strop and all of the above work.

### **Why do Falmouth Harbour manage mooring strops?**

Falmouth Harbour took the decision to provide strops for all our moorings to principally increase safety but also to improve our customer service. This was to be achieved in a number of ways; increased quality control for materials used and work completed, more accurate management of vessel swinging circles to reduce the likelihood of collisions and finally the phasing out of customer supplied strops. The additional benefits of this update have allowed us to operate a safer, more efficient, and standardised maintenance schedule across our 600 moorings.

### **What has driven this update?**

Previously, the majority of incidents on Falmouth Harbour moorings were directly related to customer supplied and fitted strops. The leading cause of vessel breakoff, was failure at the connection point between the strop and the mooring, followed closely by complete failure of the strop itself. Historically many “near misses” were also dealt with by the Harbour team, where action prevented many incidents.

When a vessel breaks free from a mooring, it not only causes damage or total loss to that vessel but can cause damage to a number of vessels as it drifts through the mooring field. The recovery of a vessel breakoff incurs significant risks to those involved and can also require a significant environmental clean-up operation, and incur substantial costs or losses.

### **Has this update made the moorings safer?**

Falmouth Harbour has recorded its safest season on our moorings to date with a 77% reduction in vessel breakoffs. The inner harbour has experienced plus hurricane force 12 winds (+64kts) on at least three separate occasions during the 2023 summer season. This improvement in performance is something we are very proud of.

## **What specifications are the strops made to?**

All chain used is Grade 3 Mid Link, galvanised mild steel, tested and certified. It is manufactured from low carbon mild steel material and all sizes of chain are proof load tested at the end of the manufacturing process. All chain is embossed at every 20th link or 1m intervals with a four-digit batch number for purposes of traceability. All shackles are galvanised, mild steel, tested and certified BS 3032: 1958 Dee shackles. All rope strops are made locally by fully qualified and insured suppliers.

## **Will I own the mooring strop?**

Falmouth Harbour strops are hired alongside your mooring each season, and the fee includes the full strop cycle from; supply and production, fitting, safety checks during the season, removal, cleaning, and storage.

## **Will I need to remove the strop at the end of the season?**

Falmouth Harbour now manages the full strop cycle from, supply and production, fitting, safety checks during the season, removal, cleaning, and storage.

## **How much do Falmouth Harbour charge for a mooring strop?**

Chain strops are included in the mooring hire fee. If you choose a rope strop, then you will hire the specified rope strop for your vessel, on a seasonal basis. Falmouth Harbour will supply, for each season either; a fully serviced and inspected strop or, a brand-new strop should the existing one not pass inspection, all for the same seasonal hire fee.

[\[Click here\]](#) for more information on mooring strop options and hiring prices.

## **I supplied my own strop in 2023, can I still use it?**

We are phasing out customer supplied strops for all Falmouth Harbour moorings. If you had recently bought and supplied a strop for the 2023 summer season, we allowed for its use, only for the lifespan of that particular strop and only if it passed inspection. The supplied strop can continue to be used for subsequent seasons if it continues to pass inspection. However, once that particular strop reaches the end of safe use and does not pass inspection, then you will be asked to hire a strop.

## **What if I have specific requirements for my vessel?**

We know that certain customers may need a bespoke mooring strop solution for their vessel and we therefore have service options for these scenarios. These are a chargeable service dependent upon needs. Please contact the team to discuss arrangements.

## **Which type of strop are most people choosing?**

For the summer season 2023, we saw nearly three quarters of customers request a chain strop:

- Premium Chain Strops – 73%
- 3-Strand Rope Strops – 16%
- Multi-plait Rope Strops – 1 %
- Customer Strops – 10%

**What safety checks do you do?**

During the season, boat checks will be undertaken weekly, to make sure all boats are on the correct moorings, as well as attempt to resolve and/or report any issues found. We will also be undertaking checks of our assets, which now include the strops as part of the full mooring set up.

**How are moorings maintained?**

Every mooring is inspected and maintained annually. Every mooring block is lifted to the surface for inspection and any chain or shackle component will be rejected and replaced with new, if more than a 20% reduction in diameter is found. Winter moorings are inspected and maintained for a second time ahead of the winter season, all vessels on winter moorings have to be supplied with a chain strop.