

Mast Takedown

Fall is a very busy time at our sheerlegs with people taking down their masts. To reduce wait time and ensure that everyone gets access when needed, we ask you to follow a few simple steps as a courtesy to your fellow sailors.

Before going to the sheerlegs prepare your boat at your dock.

1. Remove your sails and sheets
2. Remove your boom and all associated lines (mainsheet, vang, cunningham, outhaul, reefing lines, etc)
3. Attach your halyard shackles to the mast (not the deck!) close to the foot
4. Pull the free end of your halyards through any deck blocks, coil them and attach to the mast
5. Lock your furling drum so the rope doesn't unwind (many furlers have a hole close to the edge of the rope drum flange to allow tying the drum to the body of the furler)
6. Pull the line for your furler through their guide blocks, coil the rope and attach to the furler head car
7. Make sure there are no other lines or rigging attached to your mast that will interfere with lifting your mast. (electrical wires, baby stay, running backstays, flag halyards, etc)
8. Set up your mast supports if possible or at least get organized to do so quickly at the sheerleg
9. Make sure you have all the tools, bungee, etc, you need and that they are easily accessible
10. Make sure you have sufficient mooring lines to tie up on the port side at the sheerlegs: bow line, stern line, two spring lines to keep your boat centered on the crane
11. Be ready to put bumpers on the port side
12. Add fuel stabilizer to fuel tank

Check that sheerlegs are vacant and bosuns are available if you need help. It is recommended to have a minimum of 3 people to safely take down your mast: one at crane, one at mast foot, one detaching rigging and guiding forestay/furler during takedown. (4 is better/faster/safer)

If you are not experienced / comfortable lowering your mast, ASK FOR HELP. People can get hurt, equipment can get broken.....

1. Proceed to sheerlegs (stop at gas dock to fill your fuel tank for winter and/or for head pump out)
2. Tie up at sheerlegs with your mast centered on the crane
3. Adjust sheerleg angle so it doesn't hit your mast, but keep the crane hook aligned with the mast
4. Attach crane sling around your mast (crane cable on forward side of mast) and hoist until the sling is snug under your spreaders (guide sling over navigation light if needed)
5. Detach backstay, shrouds and forestay
6. Double check that there isn't anything that will prevent lifting your mast
7. Remove pin or other attachments at your mast foot / deck fitting and hold on to the mast
8. While holding the mast, use the crane to lift the mast clear of the deck fitting, swing the mast foot forward and lower the mast into your mast supports
9. If you have a furler, make sure someone is guiding it into the forward mast support and that it is well supported where it sticks out beyond the foot of your mast. (Furler tracks break if the rope drum is not properly supported. 2x3 lumber lashed to the mast foot and drum works well)
10. Clean up all your lines and stays temporarily (bungee very useful)
11. Secure the mast with a line across the middle to the toe-rails or stanchions. (Google "trucker's hitch")
12. Return to your dock to finish cleaning up and prepare for haulout
 - a. Remove windex and mast-top antenna to prevent breakage
 - b. Block mast foot opening to prevent nesting birds in the spring
 - c. Put a lifejacket or similar padding around the mast end that overhangs the docks.