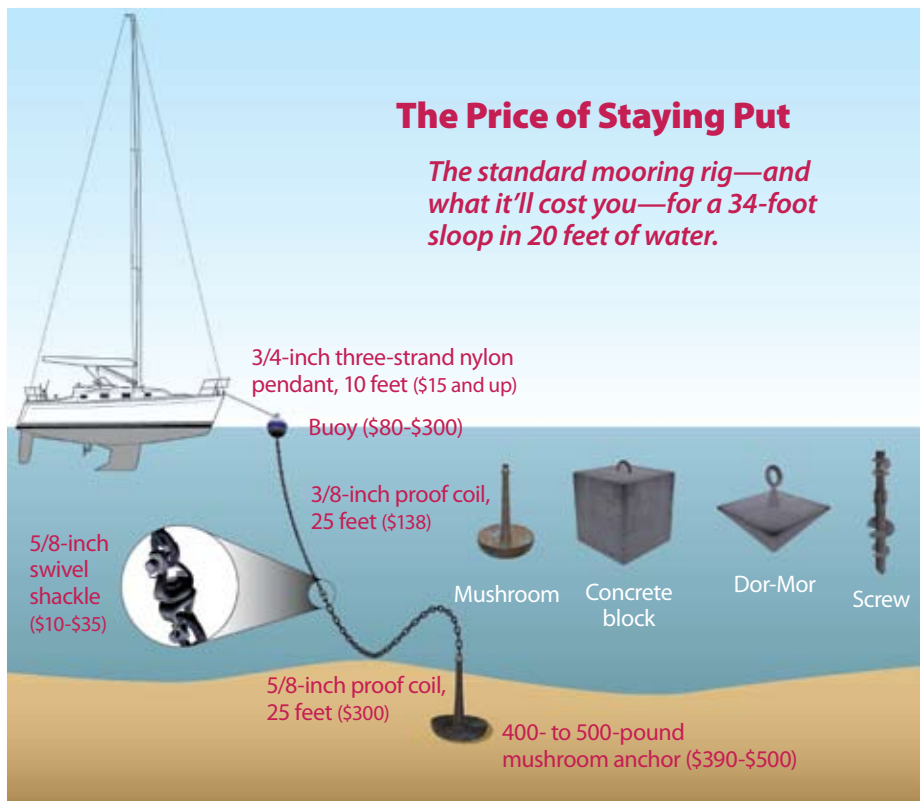


## The Price of Staying Put

*The standard mooring rig—and what it'll cost you—for a 34-foot sloop in 20 feet of water.*



*Prices reflect the results of a limited PS market scan of gear required for mooring a 34-foot sailboat according to the typical setup outlined below.*

## Rigging a mooring

*Oh let us count the many, many ways ...*

There are plenty of variations in the details of permanent ground tackle, and *PS* has covered most. The standard rig is as follows: a mushroom anchor set well in the bottom (or a concrete block or a screw-type anchor, which works well in hard bottoms), to which is shackled a length of heavy chain, then a swivel, then a length of somewhat lighter chain, a shackle, and a rope pendant that goes to the bow cleat. (There are often anchorage requirements for pendant length; for instance, twice the height of the freeboard at the bow, plus the distance from chock to cleat.) A mooring buoy is shackled to the top shackle. Some mooring ball designs let the upper chain run through their centers, with the pendant shackle resting on a steel lip at their top.

Some people put the swivel at the top of the operation, between the top chain and the mooring pendant. Some

do away with the top chain altogether and replace it with rope (this option has been mentioned several times in *PS*, and will be mentioned again). Some use two pendants. And so forth.

As for the length of the chains, opinion varies. Mike Muessel, owner of Oldport Marine in Rhode Island, has over 30 years of experience installing and maintaining moorings. In the relatively deep and crowded confines of Newport Harbor, he follows the town's requirement, using a total length of chain  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the depth of the water at high tide, divided equally between the top and bottom chains. This allows the connection between the chains to be inspected from a boat.

More chain is better, both for the scope angle and because the heavy catenary of the suspended chain absorbs the boat's pull. However, practicalities of swinging room, expense, and overkill intervene.