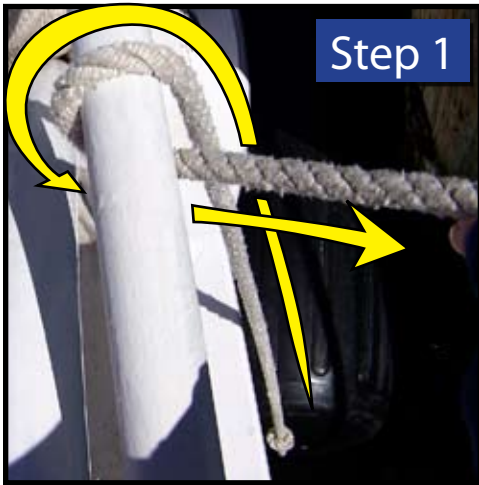
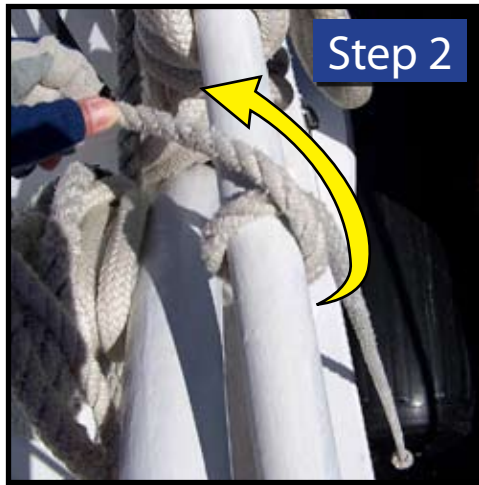


# Clove Hitch

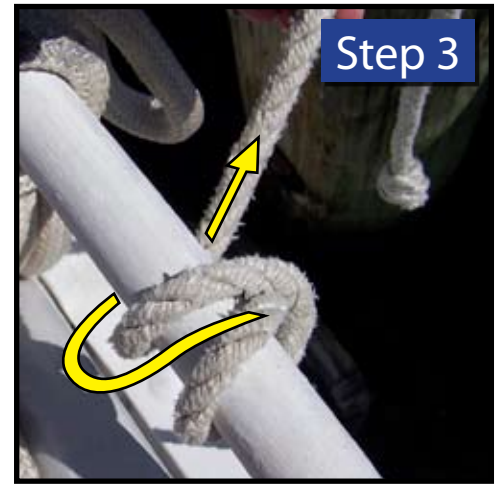
The Clove Hitch is a versatile and easy knot used to secure lines to rails, pilings or posts. It is, however, not completely secure in itself and can work loose under intermittent strain. Finishing the Clove Hitch with a couple half hitches, or adding a stopper knot to the end of the line, will help keep the Clove Hitch from coming unhitched.



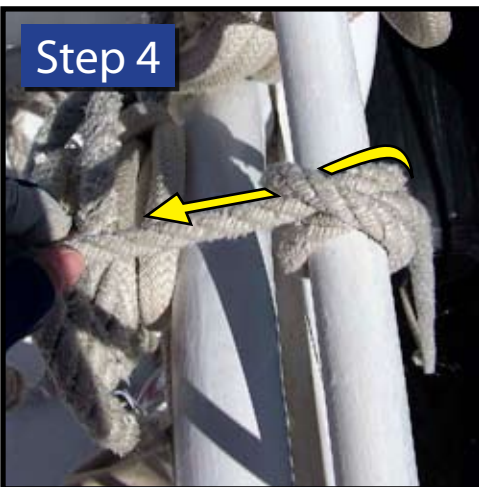
**Step 1:**  
Demonstrated here tying a fender off onto a rail, bring the line up from the fender, over and around the rail.



**Step 2:**  
Complete the first full wrap by crossing the working end of the line over the line on top of the rail.



**Step 3:**  
Take the line under the rail again, coming up this time on the other side of the standing part (the line going down to the fender.)



**Step 4:**  
Tuck the end of the line under the part crossed over the first wrap in Step 2. The two ends of the line (the bitter end and the standing part to the fender) should each come out BETWEEN the two wraps around the rail, on opposite sides of the rail.



**Step 5:**  
Make the clove hitch more secure by finishing it off with two half hitches, tying the free end around the standing part.



Use a clove hitch to keep the ends of lines up off the deck and out of the way. Free ends of dock lines, snubbing lines (when sailing), coils of pushboat hauling lines and other miscellaneous lines may all be kept neat and off the deck this way. Since these lines are not under much tension and less likely to slip, no half hitches are necessary.