Instructions for Lifting Strap Placement

Lifting strap placement is essential for safe lifting of your boat. Some manufacturers place strap location marks on a boat’s side deck. For sailboats the weight of the lifting straps should be evenly distributed between the straps. However, boat positioning usually results in some minor variations. A safe practice is for the straps to be attached at a slight inward angle (no more than 2 or 3 degrees, that is about 3” to 4” difference bottom of strap to top of strap on boat rail) towards the center of the boat. This helps to counteract any tendency for the straps to slip forward or backwards. Extreme hull rise or other limiting design features required the straps be tied together in order to prevent slipping.

Moderate keel.
Safety line may be used to prevent slipping. Lifting straps angled to prevent slippage towards end of boat. Do not angle the straps inwards more than a few degrees. Just a few inches difference in strap placement from bottom to top of boat rail.

Fin keel.
A 90° angle at the strap to hull contact point makes the most effective anti-slip placement. Avoid steeply sloping keel/hull intersection. Do not angle the straps inwards more than a few degrees. Just a few inches difference in strap placement from bottom to top of boat rail.

Traditional full heal.
Keep straps clear of fragile trailing edges on the keels and rudder and propeller shaft. Do not angle the straps inwards more than a few degrees. Just a few inches difference in strap placement from bottom to top of boat rail.
The image above show the lifting straps centered over each hoist from the side. As the images from page one show the straps can be slightly angled inward from bottom to top.

When placing the lifting straps under the hull, make sure that the straps are centered under each hoist as following.

When the hoists are in place over the boat, and the lifting straps are attached under the hull, view the boat from both the front and the back. Make sure that the center of the boat, is under the center of both the back and front hoists. Move the hoists as needed till they are centered.

If the location of the boat or items around the boat do not allow for the hoist to be centered over the hull, you can still lift the boat. But be aware that as soon as the boat is lifted it will swing and move to be centered over each hoist.

The image above shows the hull not centered under the hoists. The boat can be lifted but will swing to the right.

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