



Clean Boating Tips



Fueling

- Fill fuel tanks just before leaving on a trip.
- Use oil absorbent material to catch drips from the fuel intake and the vent overflow.
- Fill portable fuel tanks ashore where spills are less likely to occur and easier to clean up.
- Add a fuel conditioner to tanks if the engine is used infrequently.

Controlling Oil

- Place oil absorbent material or a bioremediating bilge "sock" in the bilge to prevent oil leakage into waterways; replace regularly.
- Place an oil absorbent pad under the engine.
- Check fuel lines for damage; replace with alcohol resistant hoses.
- Secure fuel hoses to prevent chafing and leaks.
- Never discharge bilge water with a sheen; it is illegal.

Cleaning

- Wash boats with a sponge and plain water.
- Use phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners.
- Wax boats; a good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained.
- Conserve water; use a spray nozzle on hoses.

Vessel Maintenance

- Share leftover paint and varnish with fellow boaters rather than disposing in the trash, where it can end up in a landfill and seep into waterways.
- Bring used solvents and waste gas to hazardous waste collection sites.
- Keep vessel engine clean to spot and repair leaks.
- Use premium two-cycle engine oil.
- Use alternatives to toxic bottom paints.

Containing Sewage

- Never discharge raw sewage.
- Use marina pumpout stations and rinse holding tanks regularly.
- If pumpout stations are not available, encourage marinas to install them through *Clean Vessel Act* funding.
- Use restrooms on shore.
- Use approved Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs) when underway.
- Conduct regular maintenance for Marine Sanitation Devices.
- Use enzyme-based products to control odor and reduce solids in holding tanks.
- Avoid holding tank products that contain quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC) and formaldehyde.

Protecting Sensitive Habitat

- Proceed slowly in shallow areas and do not disturb wildlife.
- Avoid contact with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) such as fragile seagrass beds.
- Watch the wake; it can lead to shoreline erosion and disturb wildlife.

Contain Trash

- Do not let trash get thrown or blown overboard.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging; plastic is deadly to fish and birds.
- Do not toss cigarette butts overboard; they are made of plastic (cellulose acetate).

Be A Responsible Boater

- Learn about environmentally safe products and practices.
- Obey laws governing speeding, littering and discharge.
- Encourage boating facilities to provide trash cans, recycling bins and pumpout stations.
- Support marinas that are environmentally responsible.