



KEEP FLORIDA'S WATER CLEAN USE PUMPOUTS

What is the Clean Vessel Act?

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) was passed in 1992 after Congress determined that there were not enough onshore sewage disposal facilities to accommodate recreational boaters. The CVA's primary goal is to reduce sewage discharge that may substantially degrade local water quality. The CVA provides funds to states to construct, renovate, operate and maintain pumpout stations and pumpout boats. Since 1994, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has awarded millions of dollars in CVA grants, creating more than 350 pumpout facilities throughout the state.

What can I do to reduce sewage discharge?

- Use onshore public restrooms whenever possible before leaving for a boating trip, or during stops, instead of an onboard toilet.
- Know where your waste goes and make sure it does not go directly into the water.
- If you have a flow-through treatment system - Type I or Type II Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) - make sure it is working properly and that all your waste goes through the system.
- Install a holding tank - Type III MSD - and pump it out at one of hundreds of pumpout stations available throughout the state.
- If you have a Type III MSD check that the Y-valve is securely connected to the holding tank to ensure there is no discharge of raw sewage.
- Use enzyme-based products in your holding tank instead of deodorizers and disinfectants which contain chemicals harmful to aquatic life.
- Do not dispose of fats, solvents, oil, emulsifiers, disinfectants, paints, poisons, phosphates and/or diapers in your MSD.
- Encourage local marina owners to get a pumpout station if they do not have one.



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Why should I pumpout?

It's the Law

Federal law and Florida Statute 327.53 prohibits discharging raw sewage in all fresh water or within coastal water limits; nine nautical miles in the Gulf of Mexico and three nautical miles in the Atlantic Ocean.

Sewage in Waterways is a Health Hazard

Sewage from boats contains disease-causing microorganisms that when discharged into waterways can make people sick. Untreated discharge from one weekend boater puts the same amount of bacterial pollution into the water as the treated sewage of 10,000 people. Typhoid, hepatitis, cholera, gastroenteritis and other waterborne diseases can be passed directly to people who swim in contaminated waters. People can also be infected by eating shellfish contaminated with viruses and other microorganisms contained in sewage discharge.

To Protect the Environment

Sewage reduces oxygen levels in the water that fish and other aquatic species need to survive. Since the microorganisms within the sewage need oxygen, any discharge into waterways reduces the amount of oxygen available to fish and other aquatic life. Heavy nutrient loads in sewage also promotes excessive algae growth preventing life-giving sunlight from reaching subsurface vegetation.

