

Boater Owners and Marinas Boat Cleaning

For boats in and out of the water, use cleaning methods that prevent or contain the release of pollutants to surface waters and storm drains.

Best Management Practices

- ▶ Use phosphate-free, biodegradable spray type cleaners that control the amount of product applied and do not require rinsing.
- ▶ When possible, remove boats from the water to clean so that debris can be captured and properly disposed of.
- ▶ Promote the use of dry slips and boat lifts, in order to reduce the need for in the water cleaning.
- ▶ Do not pressure wash boats in or over the water.
- ▶ Use sponges or soft towels to clean the underwater hull on a regular basis. Wash the boat hull above the waterline by hand.
- ▶ Avoid traditional sudsing cleaners that must be rinsed off and do not use detergents containing ammonia, sodium hypochlorite, chlorinated solvents, petroleum distillates, or lye.
- ▶ For boats in the water, use cleaning methods that prevent or contain the release of pollutants to surface waters.
- ▶ For boats out of the water, contain rinse water from cleaning and washing on the uplands where possible.
- ▶ Do not discharge wash, rinse or contaminated rinse waters to surface waters or storm drains. Avoid stormwater contamination.
- ▶ Ideally, rinse boats in a designated area designed to contain and collect rinse water for recycling, such as an impermeable surface (sealed asphalt or concrete) with a sloping grade and a drain sump to direct the rinse water to a recycling system.

NOTE: Unintended discharges can occur when boats are being removed from the water and the drain plug is pulled. Do not pull the drain plug on boat ramps or over the water. Pull the boat out and away from the water or the boat ramp so bilge water does not drain back into the water body. Before pulling the drain plug, bilges should be checked for petroleum or other pollutants which may have collected during operation. If oil or pollutants are found, take necessary steps to remove them before removing the plug or drain them ashore into oil/water separators. There are a number of treatment components available on the market for recycling of wastewater and for grease and oil removal systems.

Boat Cleaners: Alternatives to Toxic Products

Product	Alternative
Bleach	Borax
Scouring Powders	Baking soda, or rub area with one-half lemon dipped in borax, then rinse
General Cleaner	Baking soda and vinegar, or lemon juice combined with borax paste
Floor Cleaner	One cup vinegar in 2 gallons of water
Window Cleaner	One cup vinegar + 1 qt. warm water. Rinse & squeegee
Aluminum Cleaner	2 Tbsp. cream of tartar + 1 qt. of hot water
Brass Cleaner	Worcestershire sauce, or paste made of equal amounts of salt, vinegar and water
Copper Cleaner	Lemon juice & water. Paste of lemon juice salt, & flour
Chrome Cleaner/Polish	Apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish
Stainless Steel Cleaner	Baking soda or mineral oil for polishing, vinegar to remove spots
Fiberglass Stain Remover	Baking soda paste
Mildew Remover	Paste with equal amounts of lemon juice and salt, or white vinegar and salt
Drain Opener	Disassemble or use plumber's snake, or flush with boiling water + one-quarter cup baking soda + one-quarter cup vinegar
Wood Polish	Olive or almond oil (interior walls only)
Hand Cleaner	Baby oil or margarine
Head & Shower	Baking soda; brush thoroughly