



## Clean Boating Tips



### Contain Trash

- Do not toss cigarette butts overboard! They are made of plastic (cellulose acetate).
- Do not let trash get thrown or blown overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it.
- Pack food in reusable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging—plastic is deadly to fish and birds.
- Purchase refreshments in recyclable containers.

### Recycle



- Recycle cans, glass, plastic, newspaper, antifreeze, oil, and lead batteries.
- Visit [www.menv.com](http://www.menv.com) or call 1-800-4-RECYCLE for locations.
- Recycle used monofilament fishing line at your marina or tackle shop.

### Fuel Cautiously



- Fill your tank just before leaving on a trip.
- If you fill your tank when you return from a trip, fill it only 90%.
- Use oil absorbent material to catch drips from the fuel intake and the vent overflow. **Don't "top off" tanks!**
- Report spills to the U.S. Coast Guard: **800-424-8802**.
- Never use soap to hide a spill. It only sinks the fuel & is illegal.
- Use a fuel stabilizer if you use your engine infrequently.

### Control Oil in the Bilge



- Never discharge bilge water with a sheen—it is illegal.
- Keep your engine tuned: no leaking seals, gaskets or hoses.
- Place oil absorbent material or a bioremediating bilge boom in the bilge.
- Place an oil absorbent pad under inboard engines.
- Replace oil absorbent materials at least once per season.
- Replace damaged fuel lines with alcohol resistant hoses.
- Secure fuel hoses to prevent chafing and leaks.

### Properly Dispose of Oil Absorbent Materials

- If a pad is saturated with gas, allow it to air dry in a safe location. Reuse if possible.
- If a pad is saturated with diesel or oil, double bag it in plastic: one bag sealed inside another. Dispose in your regular trash.
- Bioremediating materials should not be put in plastic bags. Discard in regular trash.



### Clean Gently



- Rinse frequently with plain water. Use detergents sparingly and use phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners if necessary.
- Spot clean stains and wipe off harsh cleaners rather than hosing them overboard. Read labels to properly handle products.
- Wax your boat—a good coat of wax seals out dirt.
- Put a spray nozzle on your hose to conserve water.

### Maintain Your Vessel Wisely



- Collect all paint chips, dust and residue. Dispose as trash if non-toxic.
- Bring **hazardous waste (e.g., waste gas)** to local hazardous waste collections: <http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/recyclingandoperationsprogram/educationandoutreach/pages/programs/landprograms/recycling/education/hhw.aspx>
- Use fuel stabilizers to prevent fuel from going bad in winter.
- Select bottom paints carefully. Formulas change often so talk to a pro.
- Never clean soft/ablatives paints in the water.

### Sewage Handling



- Never discharge raw sewage in U.S. territorial waters.
- Use restrooms on shore when docked.
- Stay informed about laws governing vessel sewage. Visit [www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating) for information and lists of pump-out stations and No Discharge Zones in Maryland.
- Report broken pump-outs to [pumpout@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:pumpout@dnr.state.md.us)
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance of your marine sanitation device (MSD).
- Pump out and rinse holding tanks regularly.
- 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.

### Dispose of Fish Waste Properly



- Do not throw fish waste into shallow, poorly flushing waters.
- Discard waste in a trash receptacle or at a fish cleaning station.
- Or save waste and use as chum or bait.

### Protect Sensitive Habitat



- Proceed slowly in shallow areas.
- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Avoid contact with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
- Watch your wake—it can cause shoreline erosion.

### Be a Responsible Boater



- Learn about environmentally safe products and practices.
- Share the information with other boaters.
- Use 4-stroke or direct injection 2-stroke outboard engines.
- Obey laws governing speeding, littering and discharges.
- Follow environmental rules at marinas and boatyards.
- Sign the **MD Clean Boater Pledge** and support certified **Clean Marinas**. Visit [www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating) to find both.

The facilities and services of the Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. Toll free in MD: (877) 620-8DNR or (410) 260-8773 or [www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating). TTY via Maryland Relay. Graphics from *Click-Art Deluxe Image Packet '97* and Corel Gallery. Designed by Donna Morrow.

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor  
John R. Griffin, Secretary

