

Boating Clean^{and} Green in California

Fueling Tips for all Boaters

- Fill tanks slowly to prevent overflows from the air vent. Avoid “topping-off” the tank.
- Don't rely on the automatic shut-off nozzle to prevent spills; they don't shut off in time.
- Leave the tank at least 5% empty because fuel expands when pumped from cool underground tanks to warmer temperatures.
- Keep “oil-only” absorbents on-hand to catch spills and drips from the nozzle, air vent, and fuel filler fitting.



SAFETY TIP

Prevent fires by shutting off motors and electrical equipment and ventilating boat before fueling. Keep fuel and fuel-soaked absorbents away from sources of ignition.

Fueling Built-in Tanks

- Install a fuel/air separator in air vent line to prevent vent spills or “splash-back.”
- When filling, keep your hand at the air vent or listen — air gushes when nearly full.
- At the end of the season, leave tank full to reduce corrosion and condensation. Add fuel stabilizer to prevent stale gas.



“Oil-only” absorbents repel water and absorb oil and fuel. Oil or fuel-soaked absorbents must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Ask about proper disposal at the marina or fuel dock or go to your County Household Hazardous waste collection for locations visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Directory/>

Fueling Outboard Engines

- Fuel on land whenever possible.
- Use funnels to fill portable tanks and “oil-only” absorbents to catch spills.
- Prevent stale gas by leaving outboards empty during long periods of inactivity.

PREVENTING FUEL AND OIL SPILLS



Preventive Engine Maintenance

- Keep engines well-tuned and operating at peak efficiency.
- Choose Coast Guard-approved alcohol resistant fuel-lines.
- Inspect fuel lines, hoses, hydraulic lines, valves, oil seals, gaskets, and connections for leaks and deterioration. When replacing hoses, new hose sections should be the right length to prevent damage and leaks.
- Properly secure lines and hoses to prevent chafing, abrasion, and damage.
- Keep a fresh oil-absorbing pad in the bilge, the engine compartment, and in the drip pan beneath the engine.
- Install drip pans under all equipment that might leak.
- Avoid using solvents or toxic chemicals to clean engine parts. Use mechanical means (such as hand scraping caked oil off equipment) or less-toxic solvents (water-based) instead. Don't let solvents run into the bilge.
- Transfer and remove fluids with care, using funnels, pumps, and absorbents to eliminate drips and spills and to keep bilge area clean.

Bilge Care and Preventing Oil Spills

- Never use soaps or detergents to clean oil or fuel! Soaps emulsify oil, breaking it into invisible droplets that disperse through the water. Adding soap is ILLEGAL and bad for the environment.
- Use oil absorbent pads in the bilge to prevent oil discharge from the automatic bilge pump. Dispose of used oil absorbent at your County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.



SAFETY TIP

Secure absorbents to prevent clogging the automatic bilge pump or the pump sensor.

- Use a bilge pumpout facility to pump oil or oily water out of the bilge. Check our web site for locations: dbw.ca.gov/bilgepumpouts.
- Never use a sewage pumpout for the bilge!
- For a large oily mess in the bilge, use a steam cleaning service.

Do-it-Yourself Oil Changes

- Use a closed system for oil changes — a portable vacuum oil change pump drained into a container that can be closed to prevent spills during transfer to a recycling facility.
- Recycle used motor oil and filters — check if the marina takes oil or call 1 (800) CLEANUP for a recycling center near you.
- Used oil can't be recycled when mixed with other materials — keep it segregated.
- Use oil-only absorbents to clean up spills. Dispose used absorbents as hazardous waste. Call 1 (800) CLEANUP for hazardous waste disposal locations or visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Directory/> to identify your County Household Hazardous Waste Collection center.

Call 1 (800) CLEANUP

FOR THE LOCATIONS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND USED OIL AND FILTER RECYCLING CENTERS



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Minimizing Sewage Impacts

- Plan ahead for restroom stops. Always use on-shore restrooms when docked and before casting off.
- Boats without toilets - use a portable toilet on board your vessel and empty at a dump station or at home.

For pumpout location visit:

<http://dbw.ca.gov/Pumpouts>

Download the FREE Pumpout Nav from your Android or Apple Device



THIS LOGO IDENTIFIES A SEWAGE PUMPOUT FACILITY.

Any boat with an installed toilet must have a Coast Guard-approved Marine Sanitation Device (MSD). There are 3 types of MSDs. A Type 1 or 2 pretreats sewage before discharge overboard (require treatment chemicals). Type 3 uses a holding tank that must be discharged at a pumpout facility. With a type 3 MSD, the waste is treated like at home, either at a sewage treatment facility or in a septic system.

- It is illegal to discharge raw sewage into any of California's lakes, rivers, reservoirs or coastal waters within three miles of shore.
- State law also prohibits dumping any treated or untreated human waste in a marina, yacht harbor, fresh water lake, reservoir, or fresh water impoundment, No Discharge Zones, rivers that don't support interstate traffic, and water sanctuaries. If you operate in these waters, your Type I or II MSD must be connected to a holding tank or secured to prevent all sewage discharges.
- Always use a pumpout facility to empty holding tanks.
- Avoid holding tank disinfectants and deodorizers that contain chlorine compounds (including sodium hypochlorite), formaldehyde, para-formaldehyde, ammonium compounds, glutaraldehyde, para-dichlorobenzene, or antimicrobials (such as Dowicil or Bronopol). It only takes one-tenth of a part per million of chlorine to harm or kill aquatic organisms in the vicinity of a discharge.
- Use enzyme and bio-active treatments to break down solids and reduce odor. They are biodegradable and less toxic.

Boat Cleaning and Maintenance

Save major boat repairs and cleaning for the boat yard where toxic wastewater is collected and for treatment and proper disposal.

Tips for the Bottom-Side

- Consider alternative, non-biocide hull coatings instead of copper bottom paints.
- Employ or contract only with divers formally trained in environmentally sound hull cleaning Best Management Practices.
- Conduct hull scraping, sanding and stripping ashore over a drop cloth to catch all debris.
- For sanding, use a dustless vacuum sander.
- For painting, use a high-density low volume paint sprayer.
- Avoid abrasive bottom-side cleaning that results in release of a colored paint plume.
- Frequent unabrasive cleaning can minimize marine growth and extend the life of bottom paint.

Tips for the Topside

- Contain spills and debris using tarps and collect using vacuums or brooms.
- Reduce the need for boat soaps by scrubbing and rinsing your boat with freshwater after each trip.
- Choose phosphate-free, chlorine-free, biodegradable and non-toxic products.

Who to Call

- Recycling and Waste Disposal 1 (800) CLEANUP
 Report ALL Oil, Chemical and Sewage Spills .. 1 (800) 424-8802 and 1 (800) OILS911
 Sewage Pumpout Locations dbw.ca.gov/Pumpouts
 Boating Safety Courses www.dbw.ca.gov
 Clean Boating/ CA Coastal Commission & CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways' Boating Clean and Green Program (415) 904-6905 or www.BoatingCleanAndGreen.com
 24 Hour Vessel Assistance (Fee Involve) (800) 367-8222
 US Coast Guard (415) 399-3530
 Navigation Information Service *Watchstander* .. (703) 313-5900

Hazardous Waste Disposal

It is illegal to throw hazardous waste (fuel, paints, solvents, cleaning products) in the dumpster. In CA, oil and oil-soaked absorbents are hazardous wastes.

Lead acid batteries: many retailers will accept your old battery for recycling.

Antifreeze: Segregate antifreeze from other wastes for recycling. Ask your marina or local hazardous waste disposal facility where to recycle antifreeze.

Transmission fluid: ask oil recycler if it can be mixed with used oil for recycling.

Zincs: take them to a scrap metal recycler. Some will pay you for old zinc anodes.

Call 1 (800) CLEANUP

FOR LOCAL USED OIL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL LOCATIONS

Plastics and Trash

- It's illegal to dump plastics anywhere in the ocean or in inland waterways.
- Bring it all back. Prevent overboard littering.
- Remove unnecessary packaging before you board. Pre-package food at home in reusable containers.
- Recycle whenever possible. Encourage marinas to provide recycling. Bring items home to recycle.
- Keep cigarette butts out of the water.

Graywater

- Soaps from boat sinks, showers, and dishwashers are more harmful than those at home because they don't get treated in a sanitary sewer system. As much as possible, do your washing at home.
- Choose phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic products.

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