

MAIN EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES YOU WANT TO SHARE

1. Practice preventive engine maintenance and use oil absorbents

Keep boat engine well-tuned and operating at peak efficiency. Practice periodic preventive engine maintenance.

Oil absorbents are the least expensive method boaters can use to control oily discharges and are available at most marine supply stores (like the pillow found in the kit). Oil absorbents absorb oil while repelling water and come in many shapes and sizes (i.e. sheets, pads, “diapers”, pillows, and socks). If boaters have an extremely oily bilge, they may consider using a bilge pumpout service that properly disposes of the wastewater. Check the absorbents often and dispose of them as hazardous waste at a marina or nearby collection center.

Proper disposal options include (*Check the oil absorbent wrapper for more information*):

1. Oil Absorbent Exchange Centers: This service is offered by some marinas and fuel docks that actively distribute and collect oil absorbents for free. Ask your marina operator about local resources to properly dispose of saturated absorbents.

2. Bring your used oil absorbents to your local County household hazardous waste collection center. For locations visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Directory/>

If you receive the Northern California Boater Kit, please check the Northern California Tidebook (pages 62-65), San Francisco Bay Area map and/or the Delta map for oil absorbent exchange centers. If you receive a Southern California Boater Kit, please check the Southern California Tidebook and the “Southern California Boater’s Guide.”

Report oil, chemical and sewage spills by calling both (800) OILS911 and (800) 424-8802 (**For more information refer to the following boater kit items: Oil absorbent and its wrapper, the Boater kit binder card, and ABCs of Boating Law P:47-48**). Notify your marina.

2. Spill-proof your oil changes and fueling

If you change your boat engine oil, be sure to use a closed system (such as a portable oil-change pump) available at marine supplies stores and always have an oil absorbent handy. Drain the used oil into a container that can be closed to prevent spills. Fuel up your tank slowly and use absorbents to catch spills. Do not top-off or overflow your fuel tank, and leave 10% of your tank empty to allow fuel to expand as it warms. Dispose of saturated absorbents and fuel bibs at your County hazardous household waste facility (<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Directory/>). Recycle your used oil and oil filters. For recycling locations near you, ask your marina operator, call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit <http://www.earth911.org/> (**For more information refer to following Boater Kit items: the Binder Card and ABCs of Boating Law P:47-48**).

3. Do not add soap

Never use soap to disperse fuel and oil spills. It is harmful to the environment, and it is illegal. Avoid using bilge cleaners as they may get discharged overboard. (**For more information refer to following boater kit items: The Binder Card and the brochure “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know”**).

4. Minimize boat cleaning and maintenance in the water

Save maintenance projects for the boatyard. Avoid projects that involve working on the docks or working over the water. When performing work on the water, minimize your impact by containing waste using tarps and vacuum sanders, and collect all drips and debris for proper disposal. Use cleaners that are water-based, biodegradable, phosphate-free and labeled as less toxic. Use alternative for less-toxic products (**For more information refer to following boater kit items: Binder Card, ABCs of Boating Law p:46. Refer boaters to look for EPA Design for the Environment Partnership and Green Seal labeled products**).

5. Reduce toxic discharges from bottom paints

Consider using non-copper antifouling coatings or copper paints that meet the [Department of Pesticide Regulation's criteria](#) (leaching rate less than 9.5µg/cm²/day). (For specific copper regulations and requirements for Marina Del Rey, Shelter Island Yacht Basin and Newport Beach contact your local Regional Water Quality Control Board http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml). Minimize fouling growth and extend the life of your hull coating by giving the bottom a thorough wipe with a soft, non-abrasive sponge. Use hull cleaning companies who use green practices such as monitoring their divers and using non-abrasive scrubbing agents. If your boat isn't used frequently, consider keeping it in dry storage or installing a floating hoist or boat lift in the slip to minimize fouling marine growth. For more information visit: ucanr.org/sites/coast/ (**For more information refer to the following boater kit**

items: Binder card, and ABCs of Boating Law P:46-47). You may also want to use the Bottom Paint Brochure distributed during the Dockwalker training.

6. Dispose of hazardous waste properly

Dispose of paints, batteries, antifreeze, cleaning products, oil, oil filters, and other hazardous wastes at a County hazardous waste collection facility or event. For Locations call 800-CLEANUP or visit earth911.org or <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Directory/> (For more information check the binder card and the ABCs of Boating Law p:52).

7. Plan ahead! Manage sewage wastes properly

It is illegal to discharge untreated sewage anywhere within the three-mile territorial limit including lakes, rivers, reservoirs or coastal waters and in Marine Sanctuaries.

Never discharge treated sewage into a marina, swimming/wading areas, a sanctuary, poorly flushed areas, lakes, reservoirs, or freshwater impoundments, rivers that do not support interstate traffic and into a federal No Discharge Zones. It is discouraged in Marine Sanctuaries. Use sewage pumpouts, dump stations, or mobile-pumpout services. For locations visit <http://www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/Environmental/datp/PumpoutLocations/facilityindex.asp> or download the Free Pumpout App Nav.

For more information refer to following boater kit items: Binder Card, the brochure “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know”, and the ABCs of Boating Law P:52). If you receive the Northern California Boater Kit, please check the San Francisco Bay Area map and or the Delta map for sewage pumpout locations and the Tidebook (pages 62-65). If you receive a Southern California Boater Kit, please check the Southern California Tidebook and the “Southern California Boater’s Guide.”

8. Stow it, do not throw it!

Keep your trash on-board. Never throw cigarette butts, fishing line, or any other garbage into our waterways. Take advantage of shore-side facilities to recycle plastic, glass, metal, and paper. Avoid excess packaging. When cruising, collect debris you may find. (For more information refer to following boater kit items: Binder Card, the brochure “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know”, and the ABCs of Boating Law P:50).

9. Reduce grey water discharges

Use a phosphate-free soap to minimize the impacts of grey water on the marine environment. Also, minimize discharge by doing dishes, showers, and laundry on-shore whenever possible. (For more information refer to following boater kit items: Binder Card, and ABCs of Boating Law P:53).

10. Do not spread aquatic invasive species. Clean, drain, and dry your boat

Before leaving any body of water, examine your boat and equipment and remove any visible mud, plants, or animals before transporting equipment. Never release plants or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. Also, do not release them into storm drains, because most storm drains lead to water bodies or wetlands. Eliminate water from all equipment before transporting anywhere. Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water (boats, trailers, equipment, dogs, boots, clothing, etc.). For cleaning procedures visit <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>. For specific information about Quagga and Zebra Mussels and how to inspect and clean your boat, visit the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/> or call 866-440-9530 (For more information refer to following boater kit items: ABCs of Boating Law P:49).



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This information is provided by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean & Green Program, and The Bay Foundation. Learn more about clean boating at <http://www.boatingcleanandgreen.com/> or call (415) 904-6905.