

# Boating Clean<sup>and</sup> 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 call 1 (800) CLEANUP for hazardous waste disposal locations.

## 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.

### 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: [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov).
- 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.

**Call 1 (800) CLEANUP**

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

