

Best Practices for Boaters and Boating Facilities During Covid19



Shelter Island, San Diego

Photo: Vivian Matuk (CA State Parks and CA Coastal Commission)

The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) works with cities, counties, and districts throughout the state to promote safe and clean boating access. During the COVID-19 pandemic, DBW advises the boating community to follow public health guidelines consistent with the [Governor's Stay-at-Home Orders](#) and local county public health departments. DBW has identified a set of [COVID-19 best safety practices for boating facilities and the boating community](#) based on state and national guidelines.

In the safety practices for [boaters' guidelines](#) you will find information about physical distancing and boating, safe boating practices to keep in mind before heading to the water and while boating, how to properly inspect and clean your life jacket, and some clean and green boating tips.

The [boating facility safety guidelines](#) include information about safe practices around the facilities including docks and boat launch ramps, fuel docks, sewage and dump stations, parking, restrooms and showers, and laundry facilities, as well as recommendations for multi-use equipment and life jackets, and how to communicate with your boaters.

These documents are for informational purposes only. These best practices are dynamic and DBW urges all boating facility operators and the boating public to know and follow local guidelines in addition to customary navigation rules.



California Clean Boating Resources

Make use of these free educational materials and services to support your clean boating practices.

Tools and Services:

- **Get your Free California Boater Kit.** Key items of this comprehensive clean boating kit include oil absorbents, a fuel bib, the “ABCs of Boating Laws,” Tidebooks, and more. Take this quick [online questionnaire](#) and receive one.



Southern California Boater Kit

- **Universal Deck Adapter Kit.** Head to sfestuary.org/adapterkit/ to order this free pollution prevention device and learn how to use it from [this video](#). Adapters can also be bought online from marine supply stores. Delivery delays are expected due to COVID-19.
- **Download the free [Pumpout Nav App](#).** Find the closest operational pumpouts, dump stations and floating restrooms, watch educational videos, report nonfunctional units, log your pumpouts, and more.
- **Los Angeles County Honey Pot Day Program.** This program offers one free mobile boat-to-boat sewage pumpout via a voucher code in exchange for participating in an educational quiz. To learn more and sign up, visit honeypotday.org.



Pumpout Nav is a free mobile app to help boaters find nearby pumpouts

Photo: San Francisco Estuary Partnership

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Printed Materials:

- [San Francisco Bay Pumpout Guide and Map for Boaters \(Español\)](#).
Printed maps with pumpout locations throughout the Bay, with information on clean boating practices and regulations.
- [Delta Pumpout Guide and Map for Boaters \(Español\)](#).
Printed maps with pumpout locations throughout the Bay, with information on clean boating practices and regulations.
- [San Francisco Clean Boating Map](#).
This map features locations of marina-based pollution prevention services (used oil collection, sewage and bilge pumpout, marine battery collection, etc.), mobile boat-to-boat services, and more.
- [Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta Map for Recreational Boating](#).
This map features locations of marina-based pollution prevention services (used oil collection, sewage and bilge pumpout, marine battery collection, etc.), mobile boat-to-boat services and more.
- [Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know](#).
This brochure contains information on environmental boating laws for fuel and oil, sewage, dispersants, hazardous waste, plastic, and marine debris.
- [Southern California Boater's Guide](#).
This book provides information about recreational opportunities within the 15 Southern California harbors including custom maps and harbor information. Readers can find out how to obtain guest slips, the location of waste and pumpout facilities, information on entrance obstacles, and more. Hard copies can be [ordered here](#).
- [Southern California Tide Calendar](#).
This handy pocket-sized guide includes Southern California tide tables, sewage management tips, a list of boat-to-boat mobile pumpout services, marine protected area information, harbor resources, and more.
- [When Nature Calls: California's Vessel Sewage Guide](#).
This publication gives information on proper boat sewage management, marine sanitation devices, regulations, pumpout instructions, green solutions, no discharge zones, and restricted water bodies.

To order copies these resources,
email Vivian Matuk at vivian.matuk@coastal.ca.gov.

Also watch our educational clean boating videos:

- [Oil Pollution Prevention video](#)
- [Fueling Pollution Prevention video](#)
- [How to Use a Sewage Pumpout video](#)
- [Boat Marine Sanitation Device and Y-valve video](#)

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Floating Restrooms, Benefit for Boaters and The Environment



Floating Restrooms in Lake Berryessa

Photo: Karl Rose, CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways

The availability of floating restrooms for boaters' use on lakes and reservoirs helps prevent sewage from entering our valuable waterways, as more than 1 million gallons of human waste is collected from these facilities each year.

Funded by the California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Clean Vessel Act Program, floating restrooms are maintained by the local waterbody manager. More than 260 floating restrooms have been placed on California lakes and reservoirs through this grant program since 1972, and about 126 are currently deployed. Check this floating restroom [map](#) to find where unisex and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant floating restrooms are deployed at various lakes and reservoirs in California, as well as to find out phone numbers and websites for each waterbody manager.

Download the [free Pumpout Nav App](#) to identify where the nearest sewage pumpout, dump stations, and floating restrooms are near you. Help keep our waterways clean and pristine and use a floating restroom!

Note: Do you operate a California lake or reservoir open to the public? Visit this [Division of Boating and Waterways webpage](#) to learn how to apply for a grant under the Floating Restroom Grant Program.

Little Things That Matter Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Performance Report

Although it's best to use an onshore toilet when available, properly disposing of boat sewage at dump stations, pumpout stations, or with mobile pumpout services can also make a difference in water quality and protects the beautiful ocean we all enjoy.

One toilet flush of untreated sewage from your boat can cause the same environmental impact as 10,000 flushes from your home toilet (San Francisco Regional Water Control Board, 2009). One boater's contribution to the overall pollution problem adds up collectively in a state with more than 4 million recreational boaters.

That's why Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grantees for the State monitor public sewage pumpout stations throughout the state, to ensure boaters have reliable access to environmentally responsible sewage disposal options. The [2019 Pumpout Report](#) highlights findings on the operability of pumpout stations annually.

For grant funding opportunities and more information about sewage, dump station and floating restrooms visit [California's CVA coordinator website](#), the California State Park Division of Boating and Waterways.

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