

## Check Out Our Boating Clean and Green 2023 Educational Events Calendar!

Please join us at the following free trainings and workshops:

- **Become a Changemaker and Protect California Waterways by Becoming a Partner DOCKWALKER!**

Join us in one of our [2023 Dockwalker trainings](#). Dockwalkers are partners who inspire and educate boaters and other water enthusiasts to be safe and environmentally sound while boating in California. These partners distribute boater kits with educational materials anywhere where boaters are and while visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, boat shows and boating events.

- **Marinas and Yacht Clubs Spill Response Communication Workshops**

For more information, download the workshop [flyer](#).

**Northern California Workshop - Thursday, May 11, 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

**Attend in-person:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Poppy 154 Conference Room, 1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605. Free parking available at the facility. You must register with [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov). Please include in your email, the date for the workshop you are registering for. *\*\* If we don't reach our targeted registration by May 1st, this workshop will be virtual. You will be notified by May 1st and a link for the virtual workshop will be provided to you.*

**Attend virtually:** Click [here](#) to register.

**Southern California Workshop - Thursday, July 27, 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

**Attend in-person:** California Yacht Club, 4469 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292. Free parking available at the facility. You must register with [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov). Please include in your email, the date for the workshop you are registering for. *\*\* If we don't reach our targeted registration by July 19th, this workshop will be virtual. You will be notified by July 19th and a link for the virtual workshop will be provided to you.*

**Attend virtually:** Click [here](#) to register.

- **California Coastal Cleanup Day. Be part of the state's largest annual volunteer event--California Coastal Cleanup Day!**

Save the date: Saturday, September 23. Visit [www.CoastalCleanupDay.org](http://www.CoastalCleanupDay.org) for further details.

**Is your boating facility or boating group interested in participating in this event?** Please contact Vivian Matuk at [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov) or (415) 904-6905.

For more information about any of these trainings and events, please contact Vivian Matuk at [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov) or (415) 904-6905.

## Caution for Boaters, Water Enthusiasts: Record Snowfall Will Bring High, Fast Rivers, Cold Lakes and Reservoirs

Boaters are advised to take extra precautions and to be aware of cold-water dangers this spring to avoid tragedy. The series of winter storms are causing rising rivers and stream-flow levels not seen in years. The eventual spring warm-up will bring fast flows and cold temperatures when all the snow starts to melt. All Californians are being encouraged to wait until it is safer to recreate in the summer.

In California's high-water years, recreational boating fatalities related to swift-water conditions more than doubled on state waterways when compared to similar conditions during low-water years. According to, CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, DBW, annual boating accident statistics, 50 California residents lost their lives in swift-water conditions during the state's high-water years of 1993, 1998, 2005, 2010, 2011 and 2017 combined.

Key **Know Before You Go** safety points for boaters can be found on the DBW webpage "[Winter and spring boating and marine safety.](#)" The page includes vital safety information for boaters:

- Know the Water!
- Know Your Limits!
- Know About Life Jackets!

- Know How to Supervise!
- Be Cold-Water Ready
- Fast- and Cold-Water Videos
- Do's and Don'ts of Cold-Water Boating
- Winter Storm Boating Safety Fact Sheet
- Winter and Spring Storm Checklist for Marina Operators

### Additional resources:

- CA State Parks DBW - [Boating Alerts of Temporary Closures](#)
- CA Department of Water and Water Resources - [Current River Conditions](#)
- US Geological Survey - [National Water Dashboard](#)
- Cal Fire - [All Hazard Response](#)
- CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services - [www.caloes.ca.gov](http://www.caloes.ca.gov)
- Caltrans - [Road Closures QuickMap](#)



Photo: CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways.

## Learn about the Benefits of Electronic Visual Distress Signaling Devices

Visual Distress Signaling Devices can be invaluable for boaters when they find themselves in a life-threatening situation and need to send a signal for help. In addition, by law, the U.S. Coast Guard requires that boats carry three visual distress signals at all times approved for both day and night use, or three for day use and three for night use. In addition, the devices must not be expired and must be stowed accessibly.

Two options for this are marine flares (a type of pyrotechnic device) and electronic visual distress signaling devices (eVDSDs). In the past, only flares were available. However, with an expiration of 36 to 42 months from manufacture date, most flares go unused and boaters face the challenge of figuring out what to do with their expired ones.

Expired marine flares have many downsides. They are considered household hazardous waste because of their composition, and boaters are required to properly dispose of them. Pyrotechnic flares contain toxic metals and pollutants such as perchlorate, which is recognized as a water and health pollutant that can impact our waterways and can impair thyroid function.

Unfortunately, not all California counties offer collection opportunities. Some boaters will store them as a backup or even save them for safety

training. Storing expired marine flares as backup or saving them for safety training poses other problems. It is important to consider that stockpiling them may not be a safe option as marine flares contain explosive materials and can be unstable over time. In addition, getting a flare shoot organized may prove difficult and can be time-consuming. Discharging expired marine flares during civic fireworks festivities or other events is illegal. Please check [this link](#) on the Division of Boating and Waterways website to learn about some recommended best practices for marine pyrotechnic flares disposal.

Consider switching to eVDSDs. These reusable alternatives provide many benefits, including:

- They do not release chemicals when used
- They are environmentally safe with no hazardous material disposal issue.
- They do not expire, making it a one-time purchase and less expensive in the long run
- They are safe and easy to use.

[Click here](#) to learn more about marine flares devices and the new environmentally friendly and convenient alternatives.



Reusable alternatives for marine pyrotechnic flares. Photo: Orion, ARC



Reusable alternatives for marine pyrotechnic flares. Photo: Sirius Signal Co.

## Sewage Management Tools Spotlight: Dye Tablets, Y-Valve Kits and Deck Adapter Kits

Managing sewage is never fun; however, there are a few tools you can use to make it easier, cleaner and more efficient.

Did you know that **dye tablets** can help you trace sewage leaks coming from your boat's holding tank? That's why we have begun a pilot Complimentary Dye Tablet Program at select marinas across California. Check the desk of your local marina for a glass jar of prepackaged dye tablets, drop the tablets into your onboard head and flush. Then, check your discharge port. If you see dye in the water, you may have an open Y-valve or a leak that needs repair.



*Dye Tab jar for marinas. Photo: SFEP*

The **Y-valve kit** has all the information needed to help a boater prevent accidental discharges into our waterways. Each Y-valve kit comes with an instruction manual, open/close stickers, zip ties to secure your Y-valve, dye tablets to check for leaks and enzymatic digesters to reduce odors without harsh chemicals. If you are interested in receiving Y-valve kits,

please complete and submit a [Clean Vessel Act \(CVA\) Resource Request Form](#).



*Components of Y-Valve Kit. Photo: SFEP*

The **deck adapter kit** is also available through the [CVA Resource Request Form](#). This kit contains everything a boater needs to pump out their boat's sewage hands-free. The deck adapter comes in both 1.5-inch and 1.25-inch screw sizes, so make sure you know which one you need before completing a request.



*Components of deck adapter kit. Photo: SFEP*

## What is a Marine Composting Toilet?

This boating season, consider installing a marine composting toilet on your vessel. Marine composting toilets are considered Type III marine sanitation devices and meet U.S. Coast Guard “no discharge” requirements. They are waterless, lighter-weight systems, with many benefits that boaters love.

Since these systems are waterless, there is no plumbing or smelly pipes, saving you both time and money on installation, maintenance, and repairs. Also, contrary to popular belief, composting toilets have less-offensive odors than regular toilets. Since the solids and the liquids are separated, it does not create a typical sewage smell, and without that strong, foul odor, there is no need to use deodorizing chemicals hazardous to the environment.

Learn more about how marine composting toilets work with [this informative guide](#) from The Bay Foundation. Watch this [video](#) to discover the many benefits to marine composting toilets (also available with Spanish captions [here](#)).

Ideas for future  
newsletter articles?  
Please contact Vivian  
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*Marine Composting Toilet to be used for marine sewage disposal*

## Little Things That Matter : Greywater Management

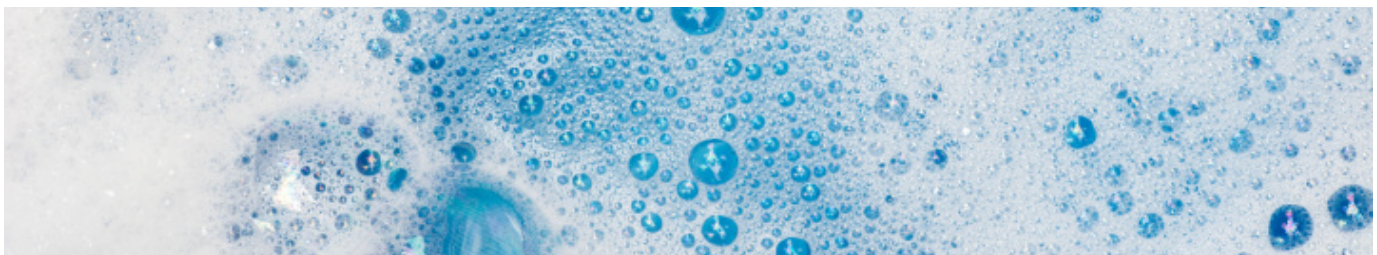
Water from onboard sinks, washers and showers is called graywater. Because boats are not connected to a permanent sanitary sewer system, graywater is discharged directly into the water without treatment.

Graywater may contain nutrients such as phosphate and toxins, including chlorine, inorganic salts and metals that cause excessive unwanted algae and vegetation growth, decrease the dissolved oxygen in the water due to the decomposition of organic matter and contribute to a decline in water quality and the aquatic ecosystem.

The discharge of graywater is prohibited in some harbors and marinas. Check with marina personnel for local restrictions.

To minimize graywater discharge:

- Use shoreside facilities—showers, sinks, laundry. If not available, save showers, laundry and dishwashing for home.
- Conserve water and use water-saving devices such as low-volume showerheads.
- If possible, install holding tanks for graywater.
- Use water-saving devices such as low-pressure showerheads to conserve water.
- Use more “elbow grease” and as few cleaning products as possible.
- Use only biodegradable, non-phosphate and less-toxic laundry detergents, soaps, drain openers, cleaners, etc.
  - Research your products before you buy them. Choose [less-toxic cleaning products](#), such as non-phosphate, biodegradable cleaners.
  - Look for products with official green certifications such as [Environmental Protection Agency Safer Choice](#) or [Green Seal](#).
- Try to skip the boat wash. Unless you need to rinse off salt water, wiping the boat down with a damp cloth will suffice.
- Use tarps or canvas boat covers to keep your boat clean between trips and to reduce the amount of cleaning you need to do.



## Boating Along the Central California Coast? There's a New Guide for That!

An exciting new guide is now available to boaters who frequent the Central California coastline. The updated "[Central California Clean Boating Guide](#)," originally produced in 2016, will help to bridge a gap in materials predominantly catered toward the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Delta to the north, and Santa Barbara and beyond to the south. The Central Coast is an increasingly popular boating region that spans along the coast of San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

This guide map features designated services available at five key locations: Pillar Point Harbor, Moss Landing Harbor, Santa Cruz Harbor, Monterey Harbor, and Breakwater Cove Marina. The guide includes pollution prevention tools such as sewage and bilge pumpouts, the locations within the harbors where those services are found, contact information for the five included facilities and ample information about clean and safe boating.

The guide map lists best practices for bilge care and oil discharge prevention, fueling tips, sewage management (along with information about using the helpful free app, [Pumpout Nav](#)), trash storage and boat cleaning care. Additionally, the guide specifies regulations on boating in Marine Protected Areas and sensitive habitats along this important and vulnerable section of California's coastline.

The popular and effective [California Dockwalker](#) program will add this new guide to its collection of boater resources, and it will also be distributed to marinas, at regional boat shows and to any interested boater who requests a copy. To

request a hard copy, contact Vivian Matuk at [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov).

This guide is funded in part by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Education Program, the Federal Clean Vessel Grant Act Program, Save Our Shores, and the California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program.



*New Central CA Coast Clean Boating Guide*

## The 2023 California Boater Kit

Start the boating season with the California Boater Kit. The Boater Kit is a comprehensive clean and safe boating resource given to boaters after participating in our 2023 Clean Boating Questionnaire and is packed full of clean and safe boating resources. If you would like to receive one, complete our online survey [here](#).

Here are just a few of the many tools included in the kit:



*When Nature Calls booklet*



*Fuel Bib*

- **“[When Nature Calls](#)”**: The recreational-vessel sewage management guide “When Nature Calls” provides information on the proper use of marine sanitation devices and stationary sewage pumpouts, and proper boat sewage management. The guide also provides web links to pumpout locations around the state, a link to a video on how to properly use a pumpout, the legal requirements of boaters when disposing of waste and much more.
- **Fuel Bib**: Placed on the fuel nozzle, the fuel bib absorbs fuel fast and safely, ensuring that spills are kept from our waterways. Remember that fuel expands in the heat, so it is a good idea to leave at least 10% space in the tank to prevent fuel from spilling out the air vent when it is hot out. This fuel bib can be reused until fully saturated and should be stored in a ventilated area away from sources of ignition or heat. Once it is fully saturated, dispose of it as hazardous waste at your [county household hazardous waste collection facility](#).
- **[Binder Card](#)**: The handy Binder Card is a boater’s guide to keeping pollutants out of the water. Refer to it for information on Marine Protected Areas, sewage impacts and tips for fueling, cleaning and maintenance. The card conveniently fits in your on-board binder and has the phone numbers for the U.S. Coast Guard, National Response Center and California Office of Emergency Services.



## A BOATER'S GUIDE TO KEEPING POLLUTANTS OUT OF THE WATER

### FUELING TIPS

- Fuel on land whenever possible
- Before fueling, turn off all electronic equipment and heat sources
- Fill tanks slowly to prevent overflows from the air vent — listen, air gushes when nearly full.
- Don't rely on the automatic shut-off nozzle to prevent spills; they don't shut off in time
- Leave the tank at least 10% empty: fuel expands as it heats
- For built-in tanks, leave the tank full to reduce corrosion and condensation. Add fuel stabilizer to prevent stale gas
- For outboard tanks, prevent stale gas by leaving outboards empty during long periods of inactivity



Never use soaps or detergents to clean oil or fuel on the water! It is **ILLEGAL** and bad for the environment.

### PREVENTIVE ENGINE MAINTENANCE

- Choose Coast Guard approved alcohol resistant fuel lines
- Regularly inspect fuel lines, hoses, hydraulic lines, valves, oil seals, gaskets, and connections for leaks and deterioration.
- Properly secure lines and hoses to prevent chafing, abrasion, and damage.
- Keep an oil absorbent in the bilge (the engine compartment, and in the drip pan beneath the engine)
- If you change your own oil, use a closed system — a portable vacuum oil change pump that drains into a closed container to prevent spills
- Always recycle your used oil filter. Check out the WHO TO CALL section to find a recycling location near you.
- Used oil can't be recycled when mixed with other materials — keep it separated.



Keep oil absorbents on-hand to catch spills from the nozzle air vent, and fuel filler fitting. Keep fuel-soaked absorbents away from sources of ignition. Once saturated dispose of them as **Hazardous Waste**

### BILGE CARE AND PREVENTING OIL SPILLS

- Always keep an oil absorbent in the bilge to prevent oil discharge from the automatic bilge pump. Dispose of used oil absorbents as **Hazardous Waste**
- Use a bilge pumpout facility to pump oil or oily water out of the bilge. For locations visit: [dhw.ca.gov/bilgepumpouts](http://dhw.ca.gov/bilgepumpouts).
- For a large oily mess in the bilge, use a steam cleaning service

**HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
It is **ILLEGAL** to dispose of Hazardous Waste in the trash. For disposal locations ask your marina staff call 1 (800) CLEANUP (263-2687), or visit [calrecycle.ca.gov/homehazardwaste/Directory](http://calrecycle.ca.gov/homehazardwaste/Directory)

### SAFETY TIP

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

### MINIMIZING SEWAGE IMPACTS

- Plan ahead, always use onshore restrooms.
- On-board, use a Coast Guard approved Marine Sanitation Device (MSD), portable toilet, or marine composting toilet.



Pump it, don't dump it! Download the **FREE Pumpout Nav App** from your Android or Apple device for sewage pumpouts dump stations, and floating restrooms near you, or visit [dhw.ca.gov/pumpouts](http://dhw.ca.gov/pumpouts).

This logo identifies a sewage pumpout facility

- It is **ILLEGAL** to discharge raw sewage within the three-mile territorial limit (including lakes, rivers, reservoirs, or coastal water within three miles offshore), No Discharge Zones, and marine sanctuaries.
- State law also prohibits dumping any treated (MSD I or II) human waste in marinas, yacht harbors, freshwater lakes, reservoirs, freshwater impoundments, No Discharge Zones, and rivers that don't support interstate traffic. It is generally **ILLEGAL** to discharge treated sewage in marine sanctuaries. If you operate in any of these waters, your MSD I or II must be connected to a holding tank or secured to prevent all sewage discharges. Keep your "Y" valve properly secured in a closed position (use a padlock or wire tie) to prevent accidental discharges.
- Use enzyme and bio-active treatments to breakdown solids and reduce odor. They are biodegradable and less toxic.
- Avoid holding tank disinfectants and deodorizers that contain chlorine compounds (including sodium hypochlorite), formaldehyde, paraformaldehyde, ammonium compounds, glutaraldehyde, paradichlorobenzene, 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

### TIPS FOR TOPSIDE CLEANING

- Save major boat repairs and cleaning for the boathard where toxic wastewater is collected for treatment and proper disposal.
- Contain and collect debris using tarps, vacuums, and brooms; dispose of it properly
- Reduce the need for boat soaps by scrubbing and rinsing your boat with freshwater after each trip.



Choose water-based, phosphate-free, chlorine-free, biodegradable and less-toxic products

### MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs)

- MPAs are designated marine or estuarine areas created to protect or conserve marine life and habitats by prohibiting or limiting the take of marine resources
- Boating and anchoring in MPAs is allowed unless specifically prohibited for particular MPAs Marine Managed Areas, and Special Closures.
- Transiting through MPAs is allowed, even with fish onboard; just make sure your fishing gear is stowed.
- To learn where MPAs are and their specific regulations visit [wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)
- To report illegal activities in MPAs, call the CalTIP Poaching and Pollution Hotline found in the WHO TO CALL section.

### WHO TO CALL

Recycling and Waste Disposal	1 (800) CLEANUP (263-2687)
Report ALL Oil, Chemical, and Sewage Spills	1 (800) 424-5802 and 1 (800) OILSPILL (645-7911)
24 Hour Vessel Assistance (Fees Involved)	1 (800) 367-8222
U.S. Coast Guard	1 (415) 399-3530
Navigation Information Service Watchstander	1 (703) 313-5900
Whale Rescue Team	1 (877) SOS-WHAL or 1 (877) 767-9425
Poaching and Pollution	1 (888) 334-CalTIP (2258)
Sick or Dead Birds	1 (866) WILD911 (945-3911)
Oiled Animals	1 (877) UCN-OWCN (823-6926)

### TIPS FOR HULL MAINTENANCE

- Consider alternative, non-biocide hull coatings instead of bottom paints that contain metals. For more information refer to [portoflandiego.org/Updated-Boaters-Guide-to-Hull-Paint](http://portoflandiego.org/Updated-Boaters-Guide-to-Hull-Paint)
- 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 the release of a colored paint plume



Frequent non-abrasive cleaning (ex. soft cloth, fleece mitt, soft carpet, or a long bristled soft brush) can minimize marine growth and extend the life of bottom paints.

### PLASTICS AND TRASH

- Boaters care about their waterways and don't toss trash overboard. It is **ILLEGAL** to dump plastics anywhere in the ocean or in inland waterways.
- Secure loose items and trash so they don't fly overboard.
- Keep cigarette butts out of the water (cigarette filters are made of plastic).



Ditch single-use disposables and choose to re-use.

### GREYWATER

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



This binder card is not waterproof. Lamination renders a product unrecyclable and non-biodegradable. If you need a new card or additional copies, please email [www@calcoastal.ca.gov](mailto:www@calcoastal.ca.gov). To learn more about clean boating visit [BoatingCleanandGreen.com](http://BoatingCleanandGreen.com) and [portoflandiego.org/clean-boating](http://portoflandiego.org/clean-boating).

Funded in part by the California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program and by the Ocean Protection Council and Coastal Quest.

*Binder Card with clean boating practices.*

The California Boater Kit is produced and funded by the California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program and The Bay Foundation (CA Clean Vessel Act Program).

### CHANGING TIDE STAFF

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