

Green Tips



...For Boaters

By Joy Cordery

STASH THE TRASH

Avoid items with excess packaging, keep trash secure, and dispose of all trash and recyclables properly.

USE ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE, ANTI-FOULING STRATEGIES

Use a less toxic or non-toxic hull paint. Clean hull often to limit growth.

RECYCLE OLD FISHING LINES

Monofilament fishing line take up to 600 years to break down in marine environment and can entangle and kill wildlife. Look for recycling facilities at your marina if any. If not, start one.

Contact: BoatUS.com/foundation/monofilament.com

SPILLS MATTER

Use caution when filling your fuel tanks and attend nozzles at all times. A single gallon of fuel can contaminate over a million gallons of water; every drop pollutes.

DON'T THROW CIGARETTES OVERBOARD

Filters don't break down in the marine environment and are lethal when eaten by birds and fish that mistake them for food. Visit COA's website for the "No Butts About IT" 10 tip card for smokers.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Never discharge sewage waste into water even if allowed

by law. Use the nearest pump-out facility. If you have a portable toilet, empty it at home or at a designated dump station. Use microbial cleaners instead of harmful disinfectants for toilets.

USE A NON-PHOSPHATE, BIODEGRADABLE SOAP

When cleaning your boat use a biodegradable soap. Ask your marina to stock these items.

AVOID USING DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BOAT COVERS OR SHRINK WRAP

Re-usable polyester and polyethylene covers last a few seasons and canvas covers last even longer. If you must use shrink wrap recycle after use (Google for location).

KEEP ENGINES LEAK-FREE AND WELL TUNED

To minimize the discharge of gas and oil in the water, keep the engines leak-free and well-tuned. Do not drain engine fluids into the water. To dramatically reduce emissions, replace your two-stroke engine with a four-stroke.

PLACE A BILGE "PILLOW" OR PAD IN THE BILGE

To absorb oil from your bilge place a "pillow" or pad in the bilge water. Dispose used bilge pads properly. Be sure to check bilge frequently.

Source material: www.CleanOceanAction.org



Illustration by Gene Samuelson