

Clean Boating Tips

Contain Trash



- Do not let trash blow overboard; trash must be retrieved.
- Purchase and pack food in reusable and recyclable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging – plastic used in products is harmful to fish and birds.
- Do not throw cigarette butts overboard – they are made of plastic and are also harmful to fish and birds.

Recycle



- Recycle cans, glass, plastic, newspapers, antifreeze, oil and lead batteries.
- Visit www.cleanup.org or call 1-800-CLEANUP.
- Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your marina or tackle shop.

Prevent Accidental Spills



- The most common causes of accidental spills are:
 1. Discharge of oily bilge water
 2. Fueling and fuel transfers
 3. Hydraulic system failures
 4. Preventable vessel sinking
 5. Improper vessel maintenance.
- Visit www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal for spill prevention programs.
- Immediately report all coastal spills to: 1-800-832-8224.



Fuel Cautiously



- Remember, fuel expands as it warms up.
- Fill your tank just before leaving on a trip.
- If you do fill your tank upon your return to port, fill it only 90%.
- Use oil absorbent material to catch drips from fuel intake and the vent overflow.
- Fill portable fuel tank ashore.
- Add a fuel stabilizer to your tank if you use your engine infrequently.

Control Oil in the Bilge



- Keep your engines well tuned: no leaking seals, gaskets or hoses.
- Place an oil absorbent pad under the engine.
- Replace oil absorbent materials at least once a year.
- Check fuel lines for damage – replace with alcohol resistant hoses.
- Secure fuel hoses to prevent chafing and leaks.
- Never discharge oily bilge water.
- Keep bilges clean and dry whenever possible. Pump oily bilge water into a dockside holding tank or have it removed by a specialized company.
- For locations of oily bilge water reclamation facilities along the Texas coast, visit www.glo.st.tx.us/coastal.

Properly Dispose of Oil Absorbent Materials



- If the pad is saturated with gas, allow it to air dry. Reuse.
- If the pad is saturated with diesel or oil, double bag it in plastic – one bag sealed inside another. Dispose in your regular trash.
- Bioremediation bilge booms should not be put in plastic bags; discard in the regular trash.

Clean Gently



- Wash your boat frequently with a sponge and plain water.
- Use detergents sparingly.
- Use phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners.
- Wax your boat – a good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained.
- Clean wood with a mild soap powder and a nylon brush.
- Conserve water – put a spray nozzle on your hose.

Maintain Your Vessel Wisely



- Collect all paint chips, dust and residue. Dispose in regular trash.
- Share leftover paint and varnish.
- Bring used solvents and waste gas to local hazardous waste collection days. For more information visit www.cleanup.org.
- Use less toxic propylene glycol antifreeze.
- Keep your engine clean so you can spot leaks.
- Slip a plastic bag over used oil filters.
- Consider alternatives to toxic bottom paints.

Sewage



- Never discharge raw sewage in U.S. territorial waters.
- Use restrooms on shore.
- Underway, use approved Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs).
- Discharge Type I or II MSDs over deep water -- avoid swimming areas, marinas, anchorages and oyster reefs.
- Establish a regular maintenance schedule for your MSD based on manufacturer's recommendations.
- Pump out and rinse holding tanks regularly.
- Use enzyme-based products to control odor and reduce solids in holding tanks.
- Avoid holding tank products that contain quarternary ammonium compounds (QAC) and formaldehyde.

Dispose of Fish Waste Properly



- Do not throw fish waste into marina waters.
- Discard waste over deep water or in the trash.
- Save fish waste and use as chum or bait.

Protect Sensitive Habitat



- Proceed slowly in shallow areas.
- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Avoid contact with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
- Watch your wake -- it can lead to shoreline erosion.

Be A Responsible Boater



- Learn about environmentally safe products and practices.
- Share the information with other boaters.
- Obey laws governing speeding, littering and discharges.
- Encourage boating facilities to provide trashcans, recycling bins and pumpout stations.
- Support marinas that are environmentally responsible.

For information about the Clean Texas Marina Program or clean boating, call 979-845-3857 or visit www.cleanmarinas.org



Publications made possible in part due to grant No. V-5-D-(2) from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Sea Grant College Program as well as Institutional Grant NA060AR4170076 to Texas A&M University from the National Sea Grant Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.