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BOATERS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Vessel Care & Cleaning Maintenance

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT DISCHARGE OF TOXIC BOAT MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS

Tips for the Topside—Reduce your use of toxic cleaning products

- ▶ Choose less toxic cleaning products, such as, non-phosphate, biodegradable cleaners.
- ▶ Use less product and more elbow grease.
- ▶ Reduce the need for boat soaps by scrubbing and rinsing with freshwater after each trip.
- ▶ Use canvas boat covers to keep the boat clean between trips and reduce the amount of cleaning you need to do.
- ▶ Contain spill and debris using tarps.
- ▶ Collect debris using vacuums or brooms.

Spill-proof cleaning and maintenance activities

- ▶ Conduct maintenance work aboard your boat, not on the docks or over the water.
- ▶ Always mix paints, varnish, epoxy and other products over a tarp or in a drip pan to catch spills and drips. Keep absorbents nearby to wipe up spills.
- ▶ Tightly seal product containers when not in use to reduce spills.
- ▶ Plug scuppers to contain spills.

Minimize emissions from surface preparation

- ▶ Sand varnish using vacuum sanders with dust containment bags and high-density low-volume paint sprayers.
- ▶ Use tarps or visquine (sheet plastic) to catch and control falling debris, and vacuum or sweep frequently to prevent discharge of debris into the water.
- ▶ For small jobs conducted in-water, attach tarps or visquine from boat to dock to catch debris.
- ▶ Put sanding dust into the trash.

On the Bottom side... Use environmentally sound underwater hull cleaning practices, or select a diver who uses them.

- ▶ Perform regular hull maintenance to prevent hard marine growth and hull drag.
- ▶ Perform hull cleaning in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations for the type of hull coating or bottom paint.
- ▶ Clean bottom paints using non-abrasive methods. Avoid creating a colored plume of paint in the water.
- ▶ Take zinc anodes back to shore and recycle or dispose of them properly

Underwater Boat Hull Cleaning

- ▶ Ensure hull paint is properly applied and maintained to protect the hull from fouling organisms and thus improve your boat's performance.
- ▶ Wait 90 days after applying new bottom paint before underwater cleaning.
- ▶ Schedule Regular Hull Cleaning and maintenance to reduce the build up of hard marina growth and eliminate the need for hard scrubbing. Regularly scheduled gentle cleaning will also increase the effectiveness of the antifouling hull paint and extend its useful life
- ▶ Use, or ask your Hull Cleaning/Maintenance Service to use, Underwater Hull Cleaners' Best Management Practices. Do not leave zinc anodes on the dock. Take them back to shore and recycle or dispose of them properly. Boaters are encouraged to use boat hull cleaning companies and individuals that practice environmentally friendly methods.
- ▶ Repair paint bonding problems at haul out to avoid further chipping and flaking of paint in the water.
- ▶ Use or ask your diver to use, non abrasive scrubbing agents, soft sponges or pieces of carpet to reduce the sloughing of paint and debris. Encourage divers to use different types of pads when necessary to properly maintain a vessel's bottom paint (example; In many cases surfaces close to the waterline are more susceptible to higher growth rates therefore you need to use different pads in order to properly remove growth and corrosion. Likewise, a softer pad can be used for the rest of the vessel to maximize hull performance and optimize the lifespan of the paint).
- ▶ Boater should notify hull cleaners as to what type of bottom paint was used and when the bottom was last painted.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Berkeley Marina provides our customers with an oil waste station located at the Maintenance yard directly across from the Marina Office. For oil only! We also provide a 55 gallon drum for waste oil filters and a 55 gallon container for rags and used bilge pads. **We do not take**, batteries, paints, solvents, adhesives, sprays, pesticides or other items of this nature.

Alameda County has a drop off location for all items at 2100 East 7th Street, Oakland. This location is between West Marine & Sea Power off the 23rd Street exit on the 880 Freeway.

Web address: <http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=577>

Drop off times are every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

The items they will accept are:

Paint, Stain, Shellac, Solvents, Thinners, Additives, Oil Paint, Latex Paint

Adhesives Putty, Caulk, Epoxy, Mortar, Stucco, Cement, Wood Glue

Auto Fuel, Waxes, Batteries, Additives, Motor Oil, Oil Filters, Antifreeze

Garden Sprays, Fertilizers, Ant Traps, Pesticides, Herbicides, Rat Poison, Gopher Bait

Misc. Propane, Spray Cans, Pool Chemicals, Photo Chemicals, Acids & Caustics, Waxes & Polishes, Bleach & Cleaners

If you have specific questions about battery recycling, call 925-449-6349 for details. Battery Specialists located at: 2824 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland will buy old batteries from your boat.

THINK SAFETY EVERY DAY!

- ▶ Keep a serviced fire extinguisher available- see ABC's of Boating for Marine Type approved Fire Extinguishers
- ▶ Ensure engines and fluids are cooled before working to avoid burns
- ▶ Keep work area clean of oil and debris
- ▶▶ Provide continuous ventilation

Petroleum Containment

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.
- ▶ 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 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.

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.
- ▶ 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 the website for locations: 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.