

# Clean Boating Tips

(<http://seagrant.ucdavis.edu/boattips.htm>)

A water pollution prevention guide for:

- Boaters, Marina Managers, and Marina and Boat Maintenance Workers

## KEEP MARINA AND BOATING WATERS CLEAN AND HEALTHY.

CONTAIN AND DISPOSE THESE WASTES: +

- Saw dust or concrete dust
- Sanding dust containing paint or varnish particles
- Caustic paint strippers
- Alkaline or acidic cleaners (For example, 2 part teak cleaners)
- Engine oil, gas, and grease
- Waste waters or bilge water
- Hull paint residue containing cuprous oxide (copper) or TBT
- Organic solvents, including paint thinner, chemical strippers, and parts cleaners

**The bottom line is: DO NOT ALLOW ANYTHING TO FALL IN THE WATER.**

## BASIC "DO's and DON'Ts":

- Do not top off fuel tanks.
- Report spills
- Ask your Dockmaster what kinds of vessel maintenance are allowed
- Wipe off small amounts of sanding dust with a damp cloth
- Drape vessel with tarps to catch wastes from small to medium sized maintenance projects
- Take longer projects to a boatyard
- Collect or vacuum all boat and dock cleaning and sanding wastes
- Do not spray paint in the marina
- Use a hard, less toxic or non-toxic hull paint
- Gently wipe hull often with soft cloth to remove soft growth
- Hulls with ablative or sloughing paints should not be cleaned underwater
- Use shore-side trash cans
- Use holding tank pumpout stations
- Share leftover paint, varnish, cleansers, etc., with other boaters
- Dispose of waste oil, batteries, paints and cleansers at hazardous materials collection stations.+

## POLLUTANTS AND REGULATORS:

The following list is provided as a general summary of agencies that regulate pollution from boating. Contact agencies for specific requirements and penalties. Pollution discharges may result in civil or criminal penalties.

### Petroleum / Hazardous Waste Spills

US Coast Guard  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Harbor Police \*

### Hazardous Wastes

California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
County Department of Environmental Health, Waste Management, etc.\*

### Marine Debris (garbage and plastics)

Harbor Police\*  
US Coast Guard

### Boat Sewage

Harbor Police\*

### Hull Paints (with copper or TBT)

California Department of Pesticide Regulation  
County Department of Agriculture, Weights, and Measures

### Non Point Source Pollution (broad range of pollutants)

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
California Coastal Commission  
Local governments

## To report oil spills, call:

The U.S. Coast Guard at 1(800) 424-8802 or VHF/FM radio channel 16. \* Responsible local agencies may vary + For information on collection stations for hazardous materials such as used oil, paint, solvents, anti-freeze, or batteries, call your County Environmental Health Department, Office of Waste Management, or similar agency. Also, ask automotive supply and repair shops if they provide used oil and battery service.

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In San Diego County, boat owners may call the Household Hazardous Materials Hotline at 1(800) 246-1233 and San Diego City residents call (619) 235-2111. Marina employees may call the County Environmental Health Dept. at (619) 338-2222.

## Authors:

Clay B. Clifton, Program Representative  
Leigh T. Johnson, Marine Advisor, University of California Cooperative  
Extension 5555 Overland Avenue, Building 4. San Diego, CA 92123

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
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For more information on preventing pollution see our publications:

- [Selecting A Hull Paint for Your Boat](#)
- [Selecting underwater and Topside Maintenance Services for Your Boat](#)
  - [Boating Pollution Economics and Impacts](#)
    - [Clean Boating Guide](#)
- [Marina Pollution Prevention Manual](#)

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