

VESSEL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Save major boat repairs and cleaning of the boat yard where toxic wastewater is collected for treatment and proper disposal.

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 boat clean between trips and reduce the amount of cleaning you need to do.
- Contain spills 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 and paint large areas only in designated shoreside boat maintenance areas, using vacuum sanders with dust containment bags and high-density low-volume paint sprayers.
- If performing work outdoors, do not sand or paint on windy days.
- 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. Reverse boat in the slip to work on the other side.
- Put sanding dust into the trash.
- Plug scuppers to contain dust, debris and spills.

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On the Bottomside...

Choose less toxic hull paints and antifouling strategies

- Choose an environmentally friendly anti-fouling strategy (i.e., combining the use of less toxic paints and bottom coatings with mechanical means to control growth). Less toxic bottom coatings provide alternatives to soft sloughing paints that release heavy metals. Talk to your boat yard or marine supply shop about the less toxic alternatives on the market.
- For more information on non-toxic antifouling strategies for boats, consult the University of California Sea Grant listed below.

Use environmentally sound underwater hull cleaning practices, or select a diver who uses them

- Don't clean hulls in the water that are so fouled that cleaning must be abrasive and is likely to result in paint removal and the discharge of toxic heavy metals.
- Perform regular hull maintenance to prevent hard marine growth and hull drag.
- Perform hull cleaning in accordance with the manufacturer's 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.

Information about vessel cleaning and maintenance

California Coastal Commission

Educational materials for contractors and boaters about vessel maintenance
(800) COAST4U
www.coastal.ca.gov

California Department of Boating and Waterways

Information about clean boating habits
(888) 326-2822
www.dbw.ca.gov

California Professional Divers Association

Certifies divers in environmentally sound hull cleaning practices
www.prodivers.org
(619) 222-3483 Ext. 17

Earth's 911

Information about clean boating practices
www.earth911.org

National Clean Boating Campaign

Information about environmentally sound boating
www.cleanboating.org

University of California, Cooperative Extension

San Diego Sea Grant Extension
Information on non-toxic antifouling strategies for boats
(858) 694-2845
<http://commserv.ucdavis.edu/cesandiego/seagrant/publications.htm>



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