

# MARINA ACTIVITIES

## BMP FACTSHEET 10

Rev. 04/2023



### DESCRIPTION

Many of the problems associated with contamination of local waterways stem from the improper storage, handling and application of many products used in marina activities. The discharge of harmful pollutants into stormwater run-off can be reduced if proper procedures are followed.

### GUIDELINES

- Have good housekeeping strategies. Reference BMP Factsheet Overview for more details.
- Clean up spills and leaks promptly.
- No boat scraping at the marinas.
- Properly dispose of trash in designated area.
- Boat cleaning must be done in designated wash area.

### Targeted Pollutants

Sediment	X
Nutrients	
Trash	X
Metals	X
Bacteria	
Oil & Grease	X
Chemicals	
Salt	

### Objectives

Cover	X
Contain	X
Educate	X
Reduce/Minimize	X
Product Substitution	

### MAINTENANCE/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

#### Boat Cleaning, Maintenance and Repair

Well maintained boats can help conserve water quality. However, maintenance and cleaning activities may contribute to poor water quality if the proper precautions aren't taken. Many marinas have designated areas for cleaning and maintenance. It is very important that boat owners use these designated areas and follow marina rules or policies governing use of these facilities. The following guidelines must be followed:

#### Boat Cleaning



Always take boat to designated maintenance and cleaning areas.

These areas have specialized equipment and Best Management Practices (BMP) to keep pollutants out of the water.

- When boat cleaning is conducted while the boat is in water, boaters should select non-toxic, low nutrient cleaning products that do not harm humans or aquatic life. Simple alternative cleaning products like baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, and vegetable oils are less harmful, however, these products should be used sparingly. Discharge into water should be avoided.



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### MAINTENANCE/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

#### Boat Cleaning, Maintenance and Repair

- Scrub and rinse your boat often. A quick rinse after each outing reduces the need to scrub the top-side with harsh cleaners.
- Do not discharge oily bilge water to marina waters, storm drains, swales, ditches or on the ground. Use preventive engine maintenance, oil absorbents and bilge pump-out services to reduce the chances of oily bilge water discharges.
- Pollution prevention can be accomplished by maintaining a containment system around the work area to control direct discharge, surface runoff or wind dispersal of harmful chemicals into water. This includes: using drop cloths, plugging any openings that drain to the water and vacuuming or sweeping any loose debris like paint chips.
- All paint mixing must be done on the shore, not at the dock or the deck of the vessel. Spray painting is not allowed while boats are in the water.
- Do not leave unattended open containers of paint and other maintenance supplies on the docks. Limit the use of paint, thinners and varnishes (on board or on the dock) to containers that are less than a gallon.
- Open cans should be placed inside some type of secondary containment that will catch spills. A five gallon bucket or plastic tote works well for this purpose.
- Immediately inform marina operators of pollution or debris that may have entered the water so the discharge can be stopped, contained and cleaned up.



#### Fueling

Drips and small spills that occur during boat fueling can accumulate over time into larger more detrimental problems. The complex hydrocarbons found in oil and gasoline not only pose a risk to aquatic life but can be damaging to boats and create fire hazards. When fueling boats it is important to follow these guidelines to prevent unnecessary and unlawful discharges into surface water:

- Stop all engines auxiliaries, Shut off all electricity, open flames, and heat sources (including smoking materials).
- Check all bilges for fuel vapors and close access fittings and openings that could allow fuel vapors to enter enclosed spaces of the vessel.
- Maintain nozzle contact with fill pipe and avoid overfilling; fuel filling nozzle must be attended at all times.
- Attach a container to the external vent fitting to collect overflow, as a precautionary measure. Several products easily attach to the boat with suction cups.
- Remember heat (direct sunlight) can cause expansion and a fuel vent spill even after fueling is completed. Leave at least 5% of space in a fuel tank to allow for that expansion. Wipe up spills immediately with absorbent cloth. **DO NOT HOSE DOWN.** Store spill kit in a clearly marked and easily accessible location where fueling activities occur and where fuel is stored.
- After fueling, inspect bilges for leakage and fuel odors. Ventilate until odors are removed. Put portable fuel tanks inside secondary containment (drip pans) and if possible, fill portable fuel tanks ashore.



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### MAINTENANCE/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

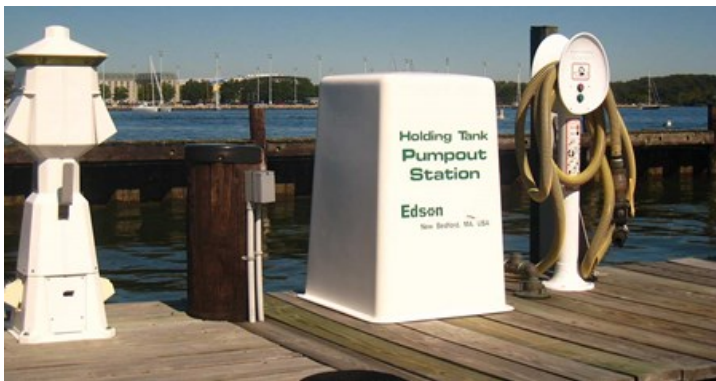
#### Waste Disposal

Maintenance and cleaning activities can produce waste materials such as used batteries, antifreeze, used oil, used oil filters and used containers (e.g. paint cans). These items are never to be disposed of in the dumpsters or trash cans. Marinas should provide areas where you can either properly dispose of your waste or recycle your waste. When using any appropriate off-shore waste facility it is important to follow these guidelines:

- Marinas should provide on-site collection facilities for collection of trash, recyclable materials and hazardous materials. If disposal facilities are not provided, the marina should post visible signs directing boaters to local disposal facilities or services.
- Try to only purchase what you need to avoid unnecessary waste materials.
- Do not dispose of any liquid paint, solvents or other hazardous wastes in the marina trash receptacles or any solid waste container. Let paint can dry completely before disposing it in a solid waste receptacle.
- Do not mix any other fluid with waste oil when pouring into recycling tanks. Waste oil contaminated with other materials cannot be readily recycled and disposal costs increase dramatically.



#### Black Water (Sewage) and Gray Water



Gray water is the water collected from your sink and shower, while black water is the sewage/ water collecting from a toilet. Both these types of water require special handling and disposal.

- Do not discharge grey water directly over-board. Discharge within three (3) miles of land is illegal and subject to hefty fines.
- Store sewage in holding tanks and dispose of properly at a pump-out station or use a pump-out service. Y-valves must be safety wired to ensure sewage flows into holding tank only.
- Even treated sewage is a threat to the shallow water environments. Do not discharge treated sewage while in the marina.
- Minimize detergent usage and oily food waste in on-board sinks and showers. Dispose of food waste in the trash. Use shore side facilities whenever possible.
- If no pump is available, the marina should provide a list of nearby locations.

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### SPILL RESPONSE PROCEDURES

In the event of a spill or leak, follow the appropriate Spill Response Procedures posted at your facility or refer to the BMP Factsheet Overview.

- **Survey the incident** from a safe distance. Identify the source of release and the material being released.
- Call the Ft. Belvoir Fire Department if spills are greater than 5 gallons OR greater than 5 square feet. If ANY amount of leaked material has entered a storm drain or waterway call the Ft. Belvoir Fire Department at 703-781-1800 and DPW Environmental Division (Env. Div.) at 703-806-3694.
- Provide the Safety Data Sheet of the spilled material to the spill response personnel.
- Fill out Spill Incident Report in your SWPPP.
- **REPORT ALL SPILLS REGARDLESS OF SIZE TO DPW/ENV. DIV.**

### REPORT SPILLS TO DPW/ENV. DIV. BY:

- E-mailing your Spill Incident Report to [zachary.d.witman.civ@army.mil](mailto:zachary.d.witman.civ@army.mil)
- Calling 703-806-3694