

# Environmentally Friendly Boating

TIPS

Fuel spills, trash and sanitary waste from boats can affect water quality. There are many things you can do to minimize the environmental effects of boating.

## 1 Be Careful with Fuel

Choose a more fuel-efficient four-stroke or modern two-stroke injection motor

Maintain your engine regularly

Inspect your fuel line, clamps and filters every month

If the tank is detachable, fuel it up away from the water

If fueling near water is the only option (e.g. marina dock), ensure you minimize spillage and keep absorbent clean up material handy

Recycle spent fuel, oil, antifreeze, filters and batteries

## 2 Clean and Maintain Your Boat and Dock

Clean your boat well (away from the shore) when removing from the water

Wash your decks regularly with fresh water and a scrub brush

Use phosphate-free and non-toxic soaps and natural cleaners like baking soda, lemon juice and vinegar

Use less cleaning product – apply sparingly and use a lot of old-fashioned elbow grease

Use the least toxic paint you can find to paint the hull

Remove plants or animals clinging to the hull, trailer or motor or that are hiding in the bilge and dispose of them in the trash, not in the water



# 3

## Dispose of Grey and Black Water Responsibly

Grey water is the soapy water from washing and cleaning. It contains nutrients that cause excessive vegetation growth and contribute to water quality problems. Black water refers to human waste from on-board toilets. It is illegal to release it into our waterways.

Don't discharge grey and black water overboard

If your boat has a cabin, add a holding tank to store grey water

Ensure you have a pump-out fitting for your boat's grey and black water holding tanks

Always discharge 'grey' and 'black' water at an accredited facility – most marinas have one

Use on-shore washrooms when you are docked and plan for frequent stops to use on-shore bathroom facilities on long trips

Treat on-board sanitation systems with products that don't contain chlorine or formaldehyde

# 4

## Be Responsible for Your Garbage

Use a reusable tarp to cover your boat during the winter

Don't throw garbage into the lake – take it all home at the end of the outing or dispose of it in marina garbage and recycling bins

Dispose of items like cigarette butts and liquids in garbage and recycling bins

Pick up any trash you see floating in the water

# 5

## Be Aware of Your Speed and Boat Wake

Don't cause wakes near the shore – it causes shoreline erosion, and can destroy nesting areas and aquatic and wildlife habitats

Whenever possible, stay in deeper water away from other boats and structures

# 6

## Choose 'Green' Marinas

Eco-Rated Clean Marinas provide products and services that enable you to be a more environmentally responsible boater. Eco-Rated Clean Marinas fly the Ontario Marine Operators Association environmental flag.

## For More Information

Visit [www.ontario.ca/lakeofthewoods](http://www.ontario.ca/lakeofthewoods) or call 1 800 565 4923.

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