

Clean Ocean Action's ~10 Tips For Boaters ~



- 1. Stash the trash!** Avoid using items with excess packaging, keep trash secure, and dispose of all trash and recyclables properly.
- 2. Use environmentally-safe, anti-fouling strategies.** Use a less toxic or non-toxic hull paint. Clean hull often to limit growth.
- 3. Recycle old fishing line.** Monofilament fishing line takes up to 600 years to break down in the marine environment and can entangle and kill wildlife. Look for recycling facilities at your marina. If none, start one; contact BoatUS.com/foundation/monofilament.
- 4. Spills matter.** Use caution when filling your fuel tank and attend nozzle at all times. A single gallon of fuel can contaminate over a million gallons of water; every drop pollutes.
- 5. Don't throw cigarette butts overboard.** Filters don't break down in the marine environment and are lethal when eaten by birds and fish that mistake them for food. Visit COA's website for the "No Butts About It" 10 tip card for smokers.
- 6. Keep it clean.** Never discharge sewage waste into the water even if allowed by law. Use the nearest pump-out facility. If you have a portable toilet, empty it at home or at a designated dump station. Use microbial cleaners instead of harmful disinfectants for toilets.



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- 7. Use a non-phosphate, biodegradable soap** when cleaning your boat. Ask your marina to stock these items.
- 8. Avoid using disposable plastic boat covers or shrink-wrap.** Re-usable polyester and polyethylene covers last a few seasons and canvas covers last even longer. If you must use shrink wrap recycle after use (search online for locations).
- 9. Keep engines leak-free and well tuned** to minimize the discharge of gas and oil in the water. Do not drain engine fluids into the water. To dramatically reduce emissions, replace your two-stroke engine with a four-stroke engine.
- 10. Place a bilge “pillow” or pad in your bilge** to absorb oil from the bilge water. Dispose used bilge pads properly. Be sure to check bilge frequently.



Nonpoint source or “pointless” pollution is the #1 cause of coastal water pollution. This pollution has many sources, including stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By making small changes we can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:

www.CleanOceanAction.org

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