



## Clean Boating Guide

Sailors for the Sea is a nonprofit organization that educates and engages the boating community in the worldwide protection of the oceans. This Clean Boating Guide provides resources and information to reduce your impact on the water. More in-depth information can be found online at [www.sailorsforthesea.org](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org).

### Oil Spill Prevention

One single quart of oil, when spilled can create a slick as large as three football fields of water surface and harms fish, waterfowl and other wildlife.

- Use fuel pads while filling your tanks
- Use a bilge sponge, which can absorb up to a quart of oil or gas
- Never clean spills with soap or detergents, which simply spread pollution

### Boat Cleaning

Many cleaners are good at getting rid of rid of stains and bacteria because they are made with toxic and petroleum-based ingredients that damage our oceans, environment and even our own health.

Alternatives include:

- Baking Soda to scrub away stains, or with water as an all-purpose cleaner
- Vinegar is an all-purpose cleaner that can be used effectively on glass
- Olive Oil works as a wood polish
- Lemon juice and salt for copper polish and mildew remover
- Non-toxic products are also available commercially, visit [www.sailorsforthesea.org](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org) for more info on purchasing non-toxic brands

### Invasive Species

Invasive and nonindigenous species can wreak havoc on an ecosystem by preying on local species and competing for food and oxygen. Boaters can prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species with the following actions:

- Empty ballast water in the same area it was collected
- Wash hull and propeller thoroughly before transporting vessel to a new area
- Never release aquarium contents into waterways

### Marine Debris

Marine debris kills sea-life, and ruins waters for boaters. Sea creatures often confuse plastic with food, and can choke or starve to death trying to survive on non-edible particles.

- Stow all trash and recyclables for proper disposal on shore
- Whatever you take out, bring back
- Never discharge plastics into the water
- Use biodegradable, compostable or durable products whenever possible

### Pumpout Stations

Untreated sewage contaminates shellfish beds and spreads disease to people. Vessel sewage can be 500x as concentrated as municipal sewage.

- Find your nearest pumpout station at [www.sailorsforthesea.org](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org)
- Always use pumpout stations to empty your holding tanks
- Use enzyme-based products rather than chemical disinfectants in your tanks
- Never discharge chemicals or sewage, especially in No Discharge Zones (NDZ)
- Encourage local marinas to provide pumpout stations or pumpout boats

### Bottom Paint

Copper-based bottom paints work well because they kill barnacles, algae and other sea creatures. The paint washes off the hull and bioaccumulates in the environment.

- Use paints with naturally occurring biocides like zinc and hydrogen peroxide
- Consider the volatile organic compound (VOC) content of your paint
- Donate to Sailors for the Sea and receive 30% off all ePaint products

### Engine Efficiency and Alternative Fuels

When sailing, we are harnessing the power of nature, but sometimes we need to turn on our engines. Power boats can go green, too. All engines emit exhaust into the water and air, and two-stroke engines discharge lube oil directly into the water. One way to reduce carbon emissions is to fuel your boat with either biodiesel or Straight Vegetable Oil (SVO).

- Keep your engine tuned up and fuel efficient
- Consider using a 4-stroke engine, electric motor, or fuel efficient engine replacement
- Fuel your boat with alternative fuels, such as biodiesel or straight vegetable oil
- Install solar panels, wind generators or other renewable energy sources
- Learn more about energy efficiency at [www.sailorsforthesea.org](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org)

Support Sailors for the Sea and ocean conservation!  
Consider making a donation at [www.sailorsforthesea.org](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org)

For additional resources, and more in-depth information on the resources included here, write to us at [info@sailorsforthesea.org](mailto:info@sailorsforthesea.org) or visit online.

Fair Winds!

Sailors for the Sea  
449 Thames St, 300 D  
Newport, RI 02840  
401.846.8900  
[www.sailorsforthesea.org](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org)