



TENNESSEE
AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

Recreational water users can help protect our drinking water supplies, while making waterways safer and more enjoyable places for everyone.



SEE A SPILL? REPORT IT!

Report a spill by contacting the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center Hotline:

1-800-424-8802

PROTECTING DRINKING WATER



Helpful Tips for Recreational Boaters

BOAT CLEANING

Conducting mindful boat cleaning can minimize the amount of harmful cleaners, solvents or paint entering surface waters and prevent the spread of invasive species.

- Wash boats regularly to avoid the need for harsh chemicals for cleaning.
- Choose environmentally-friendly cleaners, such as “nontoxic” and “phosphate-free.”
- Consider long-lasting and low-toxicity or nontoxic anti-fouling paints.
- Wash boat hulls above the waterline and by hand, if possible, to reduce chipped paint and debris. When possible, remove boats from the water for cleaning so debris can be captured and properly disposed of.
- Prevent the spread of invasive species by washing the boat in hot water and letting it dry for a minimum of five days before transferring it to a different water body.

ENGINE MAINTENANCE

Performing regular engine maintenance can prevent chemical spills or leaks into the waterway. Spills can create water quality problems for drinking water supplies and damage fish and fish egg development.

- Perform routine engine maintenance. Regularly check engine for fuel leaks and use drip pans.
- Avoid overfilling fuel tanks. Use absorbent “doughnuts” or small petroleum absorption pads.
- Avoid detergents and emulsifiers when cleaning up fuel spills.

- Avoid pumping bilge water that has an oily sheen. Use absorbent “bio-socks” or pads that capture or digest oil.
- Use vacuum-type systems to change engine oil and suction oily water from bilges.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Properly handling sewage waste can prevent the spread of disease and provide for a more pleasant boating experience. It also protects wildlife by reducing contamination and providing the water conditions they need to flourish.

- Use the marina restroom before heading out on the water.
- Keep the valve closed and locked within three miles of shore for boats with a Y-valve and through-hull fitting.
- Utilize marina sewage pump stations and dump stations to empty holding tanks or portable toilets.

TRASH DISPOSAL

Responsible garbage management can help avoid boat intake valves, propellers or other moving parts from becoming clogged by garbage. It can also prevent death and serious health problems to local wildlife.

- Bring all garbage back to shore for proper recycling or disposal.
- Deposit trash in proper containers.
- Clean up after your pets.

Source: “Shipshape Shores and Waters: A Handbook for Marina Operators and Recreational Boaters,” USEPA, January 2003

QUALITY. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.