

BOAT MAINTENANCE

Engine & Bilge Maintenance

- Use absorbent pads and “pillows” to remove oil from bilge water before discharge.
- Use drip pans and funnels when handling liquids such as fuel additives, lubricants and cleaning solvents.
- Select “low-toxicity” anti-freeze and use the minimum amount necessary for anticipated conditions.

Sanding, Painting & Pressure Washing

- Use vacuum equipment or at least a drop cloth to keep dust and paint chips from landing in the water.
- Maximize the use of water-based paints and alternative antifouling products (i.e., silicone).
- Use the least amount of pressure necessary to wash the hull or remove plant growth.
- Buy paints, varnishes and thinners in sizes you can use within a year to minimize disposal of outdated products.

Do your part in preventing pollution and pass along these suggestions to other boaters.

Help keep Pennsylvania's waters safe, clean and beautiful!

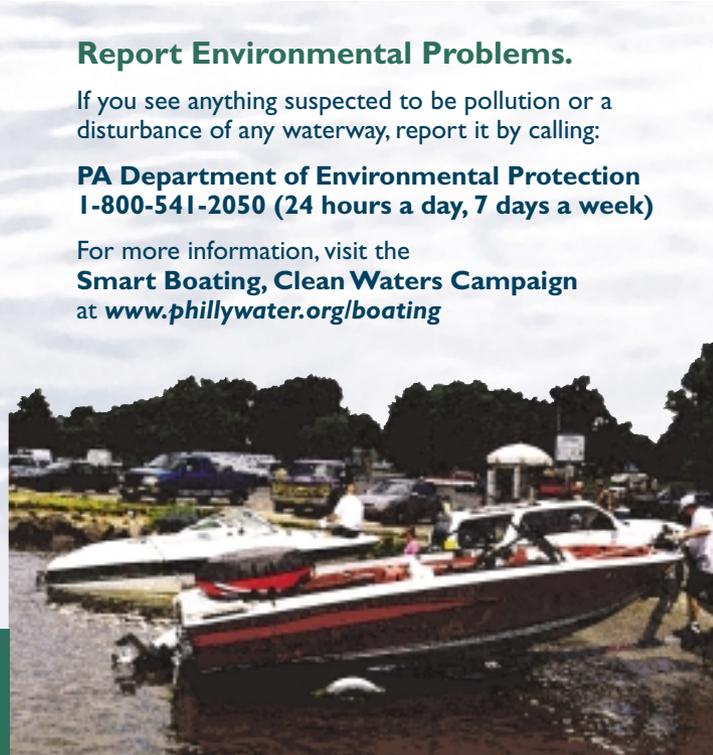
Report Environmental Problems.

If you see anything suspected to be pollution or a disturbance of any waterway, report it by calling:

**PA Department of Environmental Protection
1-800-541-2050 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)**

For more information, visit the **Smart Boating, Clean Waters Campaign** at www.phillywater.org/boating

SMART BOATERS' GUIDE TO CLEAN WATERS IN PENNSYLVANIA



PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Non-native plants and animals have the potential to degrade ecosystem health and make waterways unsuitable for recreational activities such as boating, fishing and swimming. To prevent this, inspect and clean all vessels, trailers, equipment, and clothing before transporting them to different water bodies.

- Remove all visible mud, plants or animals.
- Completely drain all water from the hull, motor, bilge, live wells, and trailer.
- Clean and dry all clothing and equipment.
- Only release plants, fish or animals back into the body of water from where they came.

This brochure has been brought to you by Pennsylvania's Smart Boating, Clean Waters Campaign:



As a recreational user of our waterways you want to enjoy safe and healthy waters. While boating, help improve our water quality by preventing pollution from entering our waterways from the following sources:

- Sewage
- Litter
- Fueling
- Boat Maintenance

Pollution or disturbance of any waterway or watershed is a violation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code.

Obey the law and help improve our waterways!



How to protect yourself when boating on the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.

Stormwater is a regional problem. Avoid primary contact with waterways during and immediately after it rains. CSO outfalls, located along the streams and rivers in older cities, may discharge polluted water during and immediately after rain events. This water may contain untreated sewage. Wait at least 24 hours after it stops raining before making contact with the water.

- Gasoline expands when heated. Fuel your vessel before leaving on a trip (while the engine is cool) and fill the tank to no more than 90% of its capacity.
- When changing engine oil, use a pump to transfer the liquid into a spill-proof container and dispose of it properly.
- Use absorbent pads, booms and pillows to absorb any spilled oil and gasoline.

A single quart of spilled oil can cover up to two acres, an area larger than a football field!



LITTER

Litter, such as plastics, not only ruins the natural beauty of boating waters and shorelines, it can also tangle boat props, clog intakes, and injure or kill aquatic life.

- Avoid throwing litter, particularly cigarette butts, overboard.
- Stash your trash in a tightly secured bag and bring it ashore for proper disposal.
- Minimize the use of disposable plastic products (i.e., plastic bags and six-pack rings) and select alternatives that can be reused and recycled.
- If your marina, club or launch ramp does not have a recycling program, encourage them to start one.
- Properly dispose of fishing line by recycling it at a local tackle shop.

BOAT MAINTENANCE

Vessel maintenance activities often utilize cleaning and painting products that harm aquatic systems, as well as the plants, animals, and humans that use them.

- Always conduct maintenance work in a designated area that has an impervious surface (an area that won't let water seep through it, such as cement or pavement) and is located as far from the water as possible.
- Use drop cloths and tarps to collect debris and dispose of all waste products properly.
- To learn how to dispose of unused bottom paints, boat chemicals and other household hazardous wastes in Pennsylvania's coastal waters, contact your local household hazardous waste program:

Philadelphia County.....(215) 686-5560
 Bucks County.....(215) 345-3400
 Delaware County.....(610) 892-9627
 Schuylkill County.....(570) 628-1221

MARINE SANITATION DEVICES (MSD)

The federal Water Quality Act of 1987 requires the installation of a marine sanitation device (MSD) on all vessels with installed toilet systems operating in the navigational waters of the United States.

SEWAGE

Human waste contains nutrients and disease-carrying bacteria that can harm swimmers, contribute to algal blooms, deplete dissolved oxygen levels, and result in shellfish bed closures.

- Do not dump untreated sewage into the water.
- Always pump out MSD holding tanks onshore at approved pumpout stations.
- When docked, use onshore restroom facilities and empty portable toilets into a restroom or pumpout station.
- If your boat does not have a toilet, buy one at a local marine retailer!

FUELING

Petroleum products such as gasoline, oil and grease are toxic and can be dangerous to aquatic plants and animals. They may also harm humans, who inhale their noxious fumes and consume contaminated fish or other seafood.

- Keep your engine well tuned so that it is fuel-efficient to prevent leaks.
- Avoid spilling gasoline into water. Know how much your tank can hold, slow down at the beginning and end of fueling, and don't top off!

