

JUNE 2013: 10 TIPS FOR BOATERS

1. STASH THE TRASH

Avoid 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 algae growth.

3. RECYCLE OLD FISHING LINES

Monofilament fishing line takes up to 600 years to break down in marine environment and can entangle and kill wildlife. Look for recycling facilities at your marina. If none, to start one contact: *Boat US.com/foundation/monofilament.com*

4. SPILLS MATTER

Use caution when filling your fuel tanks and attend nuzzles at all times. A single gallon of fuel can contaminate over a million gallons of water; every drop pollutes.

5. DON'T THROW CIGARETTES OVERBOARD

Filters don't break down in the water and are lethal when eaten by birds and fish mistaking them for food. See COA website's "No Butts About IT" 10 tip card for smokers.

6. KEEP IT CLEAN

Never discharge sewage waste into 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.

7. USE A NON-PHOSPHATE, BIODEGRADABLE SOAP

Clean your boat with a biodegradable soap. Ask your marina to stock them.

8. AVOID DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BOAT COVERS OR SHRINK WRAP

Reusable polyester and polyethylene covers last a few seasons and canvas covers last even longer. If you must use shrink wrap, recycle after use (search internet for location).

9. KEEP ENGINES LEAK-FREE AND WELL TUNED

To minimize the discharge of gas and oil in the water, keep the engines leak-free and well-tuned. **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 place a "pillow" or pad in the bilge water. Dispose used bilge pads properly. Be sure to check bilge frequently.