



## Clean Boating Tips

A few tips to keep our Oklahoma waters clean for boaters and marinas for today and future generations.

### Contain Trash – Stow it; don't throw it!

- Place all trash in an onboard receptacle.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it.
- Pack food in reusable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging.
- Purchase refreshments in recyclable containers.
- Dump collected trash on shore in appropriate collection bins.

### Recycle

- Recycle cans, glass, plastic, newspaper, antifreeze, oil, and lead batteries.
- Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your marina or tackle shop.

### Dispose of Fish Waste Properly

- Do not throw fish waste into marina waters.
- Discard fish waste in the trash or use as bait.

### Sewage

- Use on-shore restrooms prior to leaving the marina or dock.
- If equipped, use only U.S. Coast Guard-approved Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD) while on the water.
- Never discharge untreated sewage onto the land or into streams, rivers, or lakes.
- Regularly maintain your MSD according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Pump out, rinse, and clean holding tanks regularly.
- Use enzyme-based products to control odor and reduce solids in holding tanks.
- Avoid holding tank products that contain quaternary ammonium compounds and formaldehyde.



### Fuel Cautiously

- Fill fuel tanks to a maximum of 90 percent of capacity to allow for expansion as the fuel warms.
- Use absorbent material to catch drips from the fuel intake and the vent overflow.
- Fill portable fuel tanks on shore.

### Control Oil in the Bilge

- Place oil absorbent material or bio-remediating bilge booms in the bilge. Dispose in regular trash.
- Place an oil absorbent pad under the engine.
- Replace oil absorbent materials at least once a year.
- Check fuel lines for damage; replace with alcohol resistant hoses.
- Secure fuel hoses to prevent chafing and leaks.
- Never discharge bilge water that has a sheen.

## Properly Dispose of Oil Absorbent Materials

- If the pad is saturated with gas, allow it to air dry. Reuse.
- If the pad is saturated with diesel or oil, double bag in plastic by placing one bag sealed inside another. Dispose in regular trash.

## Clean Gently

- Wash your boat frequently with a sponge and plain water.
- Use detergents sparingly.
- Use phosphate-free, bio-degradable and non-toxic cleaners.
- Wax your boat — a good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained.
- Clean wood with a mild soap powder and a nylon brush.
- Conserve water — put a spray nozzle on your hose.

## Maintain Your Boat Wisely

- Collect all paint chips, dust, and residue. Dispose in regular trash.
- Share leftover paint and varnish.
- Bring used solvents and waste gas to local hazardous waste collection events or sites.
- Use less toxic propylene glycol antifreeze.
- Keep your engine clean so you can spot leaks.
- Slip a plastic bag over used oil filters. Dispose in regular trash.
- Consider alternatives to toxic bottom paints.
- Keep your engine well-tuned; no leaking seals, gaskets, or hoses.
- Add a fuel stabilizer to your tank if engine is used infrequently.

## Be a Responsible Boater

- Learn about and use environmentally safe products and practices.
- Share the information with other boaters.
- Obey laws governing speeding, littering, and discharge.
- Encourage boating facilities to provide trash cans, recycling bins, and pump-out stations.
- Support marinas that are environmentally responsible.
- Protect sensitive habitats by proceeding slowly in shallow areas.
- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Avoid contact with submerged aquatic vegetation.
- Watch your wake — it can lead to shoreline erosion.



*The Oklahoma Clean Marina Program is a partnership between the Oklahoma Marina Association and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.*



**Oklahoma Clean Marina Program**  
**Cheryl Dirck**  
**Environmental Programs Specialist**  
**Office: (405) 702-8179**  
**Cell: (405) 802-6794**  
**Email: [cheryl.dirck@deq.ok.gov](mailto:cheryl.dirck@deq.ok.gov)**



**Oklahoma Marina Association**  
**c/o Lori Mosler**  
**Executive Director**  
**P. O. Box 56**  
**Disney, OK 74340**  
**Phone: (316) 841-2203**  
**Email: [lori@okmarinas.org](mailto:lori@okmarinas.org)**