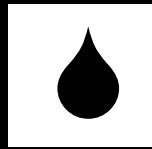




# POLLUTION PREVENTION FACT SHEET

Pollution Prevention Program - Federal Programs Division

## Fact Sheet #17:



## Clean Marinas: Vessel Cleaning

This Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet is one in a continuing series prepared under the Pollution Prevention Program of the Federal Programs Division of Environment Canada, Ontario Region. This Program is intended to help federal departments in Ontario become model environmental citizens by managing beyond compliance. This Fact Sheet presents the following:

- The pollution potential of some ordinary cleaners used to clean watercraft at marinas
- Actions that marina operators and boaters alike may adopt to preserve the marine environment



### The Problem:

Some cleaning products can be toxic, non-biodegradable, or contain harmful chemicals. Other cleaners are phosphate-based, and may contribute to undesirable algae growth, decreased dissolved oxygen levels in water, and even fish kills. Such cleaners can mean trouble for marine organisms.



### The Objective:

Encourage the cleaning of boats with processes and products that have little or no environmental impact on water quality.



### The Process:

Before cleaning your boat, please consider the following:

- Use all cleaners sparingly- minimize the use of soaps and detergents by washing your vessel more frequently with plain water.
- Do not use cleaners that contain ammonia, sodium, chlorinated solvents, petroleum distillates, or lye.
- Substitute chemical cleansers with natural ones, such as vinegar, citric juices, borax, and baking soda.

- Look for the “Ecologo” symbol! (right) Use only non-toxic, phosphate-free, biodegradable cleaners, a variety of which are available on the market.



- Use auto shut-off hose nozzles to conserve water and reduce runoff from boat washing.
- Do not clean the bottom of your vessel by scraping or scrubbing while it is still in the water.
- Do not allow cleaners, polishes or rags to fall into the water body.
- Do not use high pressure washers on the slip where paint particles can be washed into the water body



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This Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet for Clean Marinas was adapted from guidelines originally published by Sea Grant University of Rhode Island.

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### Success Stories

Does your department have a pollution prevention success story to share? Other government departments in Ontario would like to hear about your experience in dealing with a particular problem. Please provide relevant information to the Pollution Prevention Advisor, Federal Programs Division, Environment Canada. We will ensure that all interested parties receive this information.

For further information about the Pollution Prevention Program for federal facilities in Ontario, please contact:

Environment Canada  
Ontario Region - Environmental Protection Branch  
Federal Programs Division  
49 Camelot Drive  
Nepean, Ontario, K1A 0H3  
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All Fact Sheets can be found on the Internet at:  
[www.on.ec.gc.ca/epb/fpd](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/epb/fpd)  
(aussi disponible en français)

### Further Sources of Information

For more information on the benefits of Pollution Prevention at Marinas, please contact:

#### **The Ontario Marina Operators' Association**

Box 105, 2 Poyntz Street  
Penetanguishene, ON, L9M 1M2  
1-888-579-BOAT and  
[www.letsgo boating.com](http://www.letsgo boating.com)