

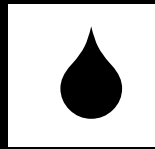


POLLUTION PREVENTION FACT SHEET

Pollution Prevention Program - Federal Programs Division

Fact
Sheet

#18:



Clean Marinas: Marina Pump-Out Facilities

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:

- Potential threats to the marine environment presented by marina pump-out facilities
- Processes that may be used to prevent the pollution of marina waters by vessel-borne sewage.



The Problem:

Marine vessel sewage is a serious threat to the environment and human health when discharged illegally into our waterways. If ingested, pathogens in sewage can cause illnesses such as diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis and others. Nutrients in the water can also accelerate oxygen depletion in the water column by over-stimulating plant growth and leading to eutrophication. Eutrophication is a condition contributing to algae blooms, foul odours, and fish kills. This problem may be more serious in enclosed waters, like marina basins, where boaters concentrate to anchor, swim, and fish.



The Objective:

Provide an effective and timely black water pump out service to the boating public to protect water quality.



The Process:

Boat owners and marina operators can assist in protecting the marina environment by taking the following steps to prevent the release of vessel sewage into the marina waters:

- Remember- it is **illegal** to discharge raw sewage from a vessel into Canadian waters!
- In Ontario and other parts of Canada, especially inland waterways, all boats fitted with a marine

toilet must also be fitted with a holding tank. This tank stores raw sewage, ("black water"), until it can be properly disposed of at a pump-out station.

- "Dual" systems, with Y-valves allowing toilet waste to dump overboard, are **illegal** in Ontario and some other areas. These valves either must be removed, or locked in a position that allows raw sewage to enter the holding tank only
- Portable toilets are legal only if they are well fastened to the boat, and have a permanent fixture enabling them to be emptied at a pump-out station.
- Pump-out facilities should be used to dispose of stored waste whenever possible. They are fast, clean, and inexpensive. The Ontario Marina Operators Association publishes a guide listing working pump-out facilities. (1-800-579-BOAT)



- ❑ Marine sanitation devices (MSDs) must be maintained to operate properly. Keep your disinfectant tank full, use biodegradable treatment chemicals, and follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance program.
- ❑ Never dispose of fats, solvents, oils, emulsifiers, disinfectants, paints, poisons, phosphates, diapers, or like products in your MSD.
- ❑ Whenever possible, use land-based rest rooms rather than onboard ones.

“Serious bacterial infection can occur if black water is released into recreational waterways used for swimming. Nobody should allow this to happen, and any violations should be reported to ensure clean waterways for all to enjoy”.

-Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons

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

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.letsgoboating.com

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
(aussi disponible en français)