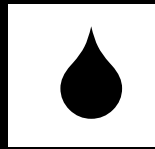




POLLUTION PREVENTION FACT SHEET

Pollution Prevention Program - Federal Programs Division

Fact Sheet #19:



Clean Marinas: Fueling, Bilge Pumping & Spills

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:

- Problems presented by the discharge of contaminated bilge water and fuels to marina waters
- Actions that may be taken to prevent the pollution of marina waters and to maintain water quality.



The Problem:

Fuel spills and the discharge of contaminated bilge water into the waterway from pleasure boats can have a serious impact on the local marina environment.



The Objective:

Encourage the proper refueling of boats and evacuation of bilge water from boats' engine compartments.



The Process:

Marina operators and boat owners can assist in protecting marina basin water quality by ensuring that fueling operations and bilge water discharges are performed following the guidelines outlined below:

Fueling

- ❑ Pay attention, and prevent fuel from falling into the water during fueling.
- ❑ Don't "top off" tanks; know the capacities of your fuel tanks prior to filling.
- ❑ Place an absorbent pad or container over the fuel fill port, or under the fuel vent to collect any overflow.
- ❑ Listen to the filler pipe to anticipate when the tank is full, to avoid back-splash.



- ❑ To prevent spillage from tank vents, install a fuel/air separator or an air whistle in your tank's vent line.

Bilge Pumping

- ❑ Prior to pumping, inspect the bilge to ensure that no fuel has been spilled.
- ❑ Do not discharge bilge water if a "sheen" floats on the surface; install drip trays to capture leaks.
- ❑ Make sure the engine(s) and all other systems are in good working order, with no leaking seals or gaskets.
- ❑ Use petroleum absorbent material, such as bilge pillows and engine pan pads, to help remove oil from bilge water.
- ❑ As a further preventative measure, oil/water separators can be installed in bilge pump discharge lines.
- ❑ If dirty bilge water cannot be cleaned to dischargeable levels, have an equipped marina properly dispose of the polluted water.

Spill Response

If a release of fuel or other contaminant occurs after taking all reasonable care and precautions to prevent such a spill, the marina must be prepared to provide an "initial response capability". This requires that staff be trained and equipped for spill response. In most cases, "initial response" consists of having the skills and the knowledge to quickly assess the level of risk to the marina in terms of safety, property and environment. Initial response also demands that

marina staff respond quickly and effectively. Action will centre on identifying and securing the source of the release, while taking preliminary action to contain the contaminants. Some key spill response actions:



- If a spill occurs while fueling, stop fueling immediately.
- Use absorbent booms to help contain the spill (spill kits should be available at all marinas, as above)
- Report all spills to the Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060.
- For small spill cleanup, place absorbent materials inside the boom to absorb the spill.
- When cleanup is complete, properly dispose of used spill response material.

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:

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Ontario Region - Environmental Protection Branch
Federal Programs Division
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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)