



# CLEAN BOATIES

## FACT SHEET

### DISCLAIMER

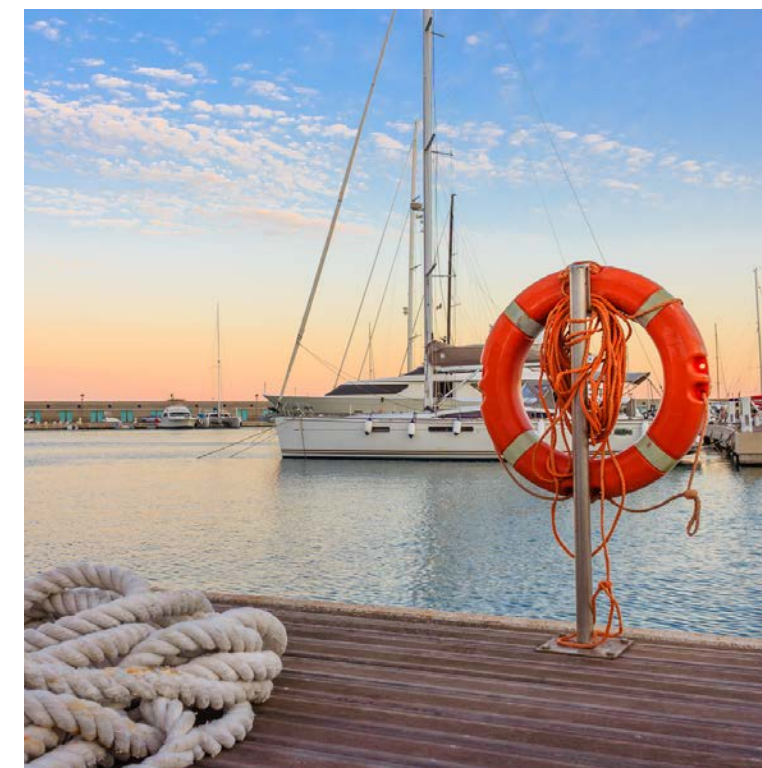
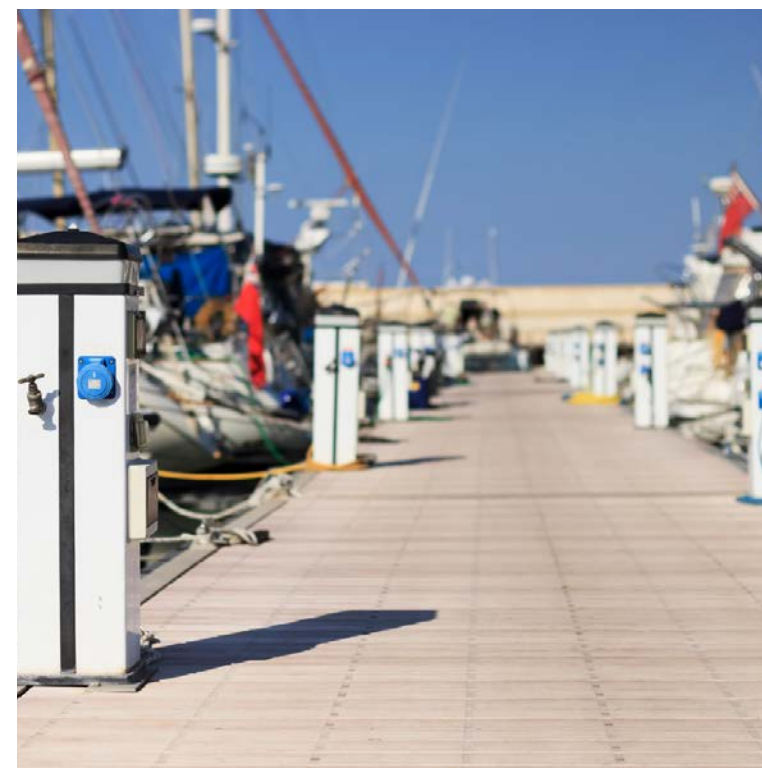
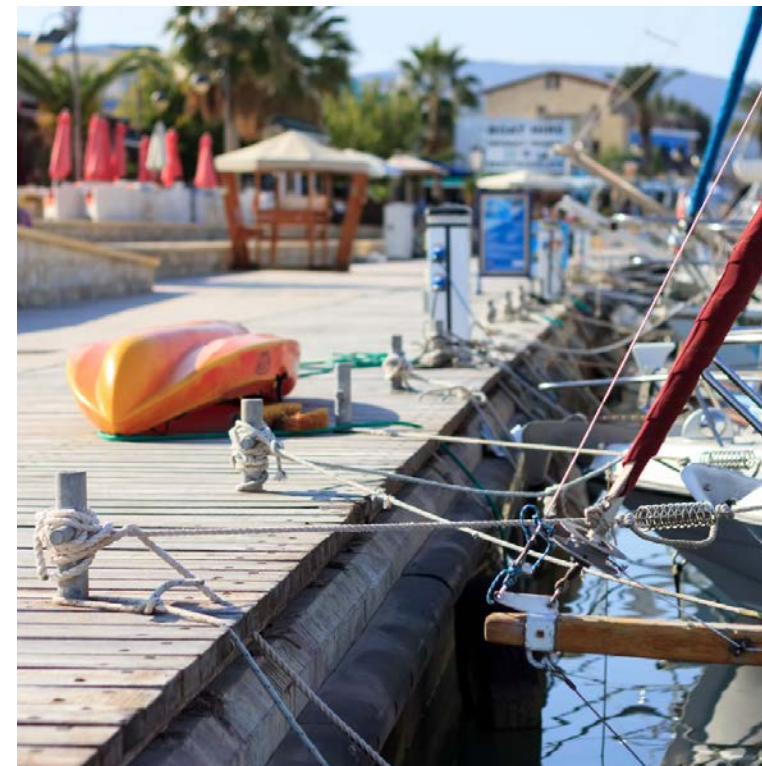
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# What is the Clean Marina Program?

International Clean Marina is an international voluntary accreditation program for marinas. The focus of the program is to protect inland and coastal waterways by encouraging environmental compliance and the use of best management practices in marinas.

As a companion to the International Clean Marina Program, Marina Industries Association encourages boat owners to practice environmentally friendly boat cleaning and maintenance techniques. As a boat owner or operator, you want to enjoy healthy, safe and pristine waters. Everyone has a responsibility to be involved in the Clean Marina Program and contribute towards keeping our seas alive and healthy. If you are not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.



# Waste disposal

Improper management of waste, including fish waste, can pose risks to both marine life and people by polluting our waterways and spoiling your boating experience.

**‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’** should guide every boater’s decisions and behaviour. Doing so will minimise the amount of waste disposal required.



# Waste disposal

## *General waste*

- Do not throw anything overboard – even if it is small and organic. Store any rubbish on board and dispose of it appropriately when you return to land.
- Never allow plastics to be discarded into the water, best to stay clear of putting stickers on your boat.
- Separate recyclable materials from regular rubbish for recycling at the marina or a local recycling centre.
- Use the appropriately marked rubbish bin. If it is full, find another that has room.
- Do not put plastic bags and liners into recycling bins.
- Never place batteries, fuel or oils, fuel filters, coolants, transmission fluids, flares, solvents, pesticides, and any other hazardous waste in or beside a bin. If you are not sure how to dispose of a certain waste, ask your marina manager and they will provide you with advice and solutions.
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste in your marina's rubbish bins.
- Be a good neighbour and pick up garbage that you come across, either floating in the water or on land.



# Waste disposal

## *Fishing waste*

Throwing fish waste back into the water is not an appropriate method of disposal. Not only does decomposing fish create unpleasant odours, but the decomposition process can result in the depletion of oxygen in the water, reducing water quality and the wildlife that inhabit it. Fish waste should not be discarded in the marina basin and should be avoided in all enclosed waterways.

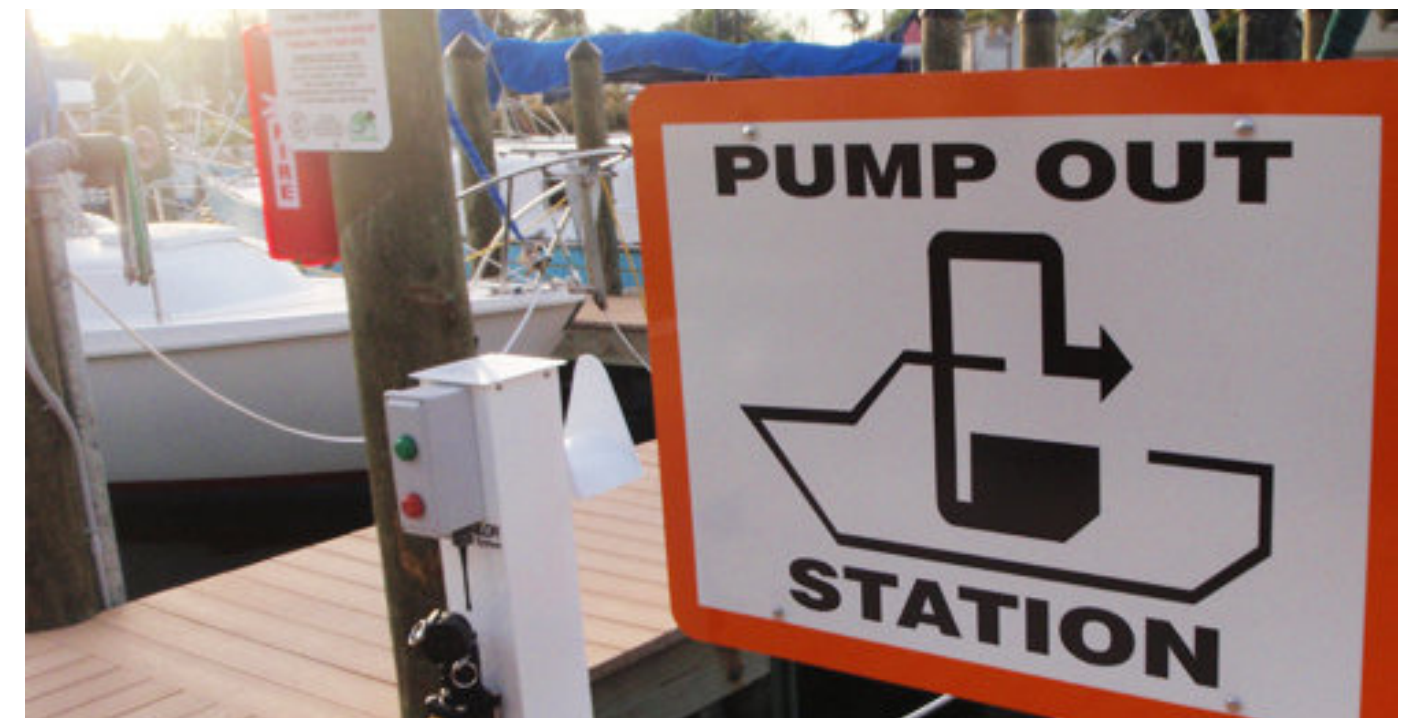
- If fish are cleaned at the marina, do it at a designated location. Never on the marina itself. Fish waste must be disposed of as directed.
- Take particular care to properly dispose of fishing lines. Fishing lines in the water can entangle fish, wildlife, swimmers, and boat propellers.



# Grey & black water disposal

The disposal of treated and untreated sewerage is unsightly, emits terrible odours, adversely affects marine life and can be a serious public health risk. In many regions it is subject to legislation and regulations. A few general best practice principles to follow are below.

- Use shore-side showers, dishwashing stations, and laundry facilities whenever they are available to reduce the need for disposal.
- Never discharge bilges or holding tanks into a waterway or in open waters close to shore. Discharging bilge water from distant ports can also introduce unwanted exotic species.
- Know the location of local black and grey water pump-out facilities and use them.
- Mobile pump-out services may be available at marinas that do not have fixed marina pump-out systems.
- Use oil-absorbent products in bilges, such as 'bilge rats'.



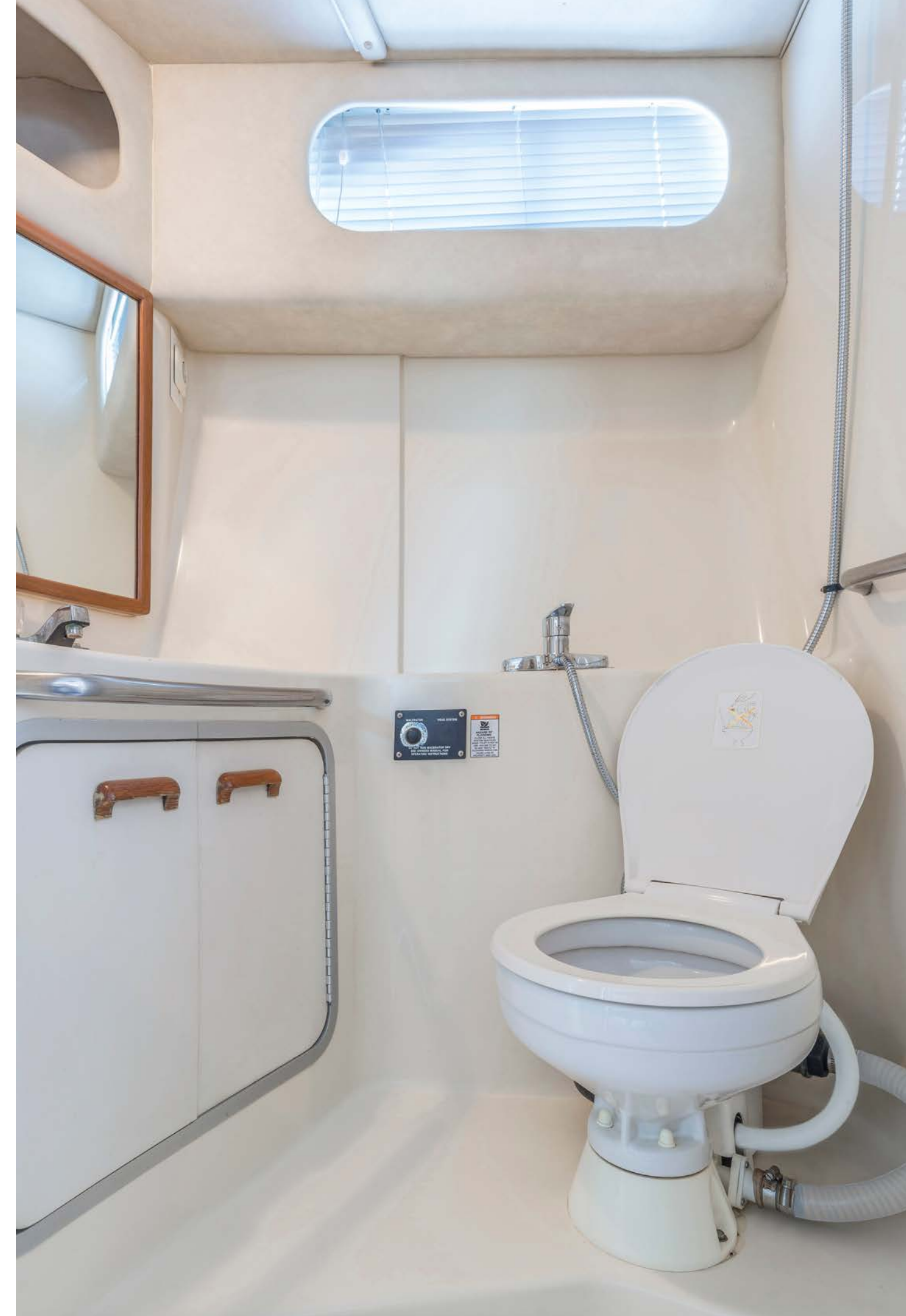
For discharge standards in Australia visit: [www.amsa.gov.au/marine-environment/marine-pollution/discharge-standards](http://www.amsa.gov.au/marine-environment/marine-pollution/discharge-standards)

# Grey & black water disposal

## *Marine toilet maintenance*

Saltwater flushing toilets accumulate scale deposits, so it is important to engage in proactive maintenance to prevent blockages and other problems.

- Follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance program.
- Have your marine toilet inspected regularly to ensure that it is functioning properly.
- Use biodegradable treatment chemicals, try white vinegar or baking soda.
- Keeping the toilet maintained will help to reduce the need for deodorants, many of which contain toxic formaldehyde that can kill fish.
- Do not dispose of fats, solvents, oils, emulsifiers, disinfectants, paints, poisons, phosphates, nappies, or other similar products in your marine toilet.
- Check product labels and use low nitrogen and phosphorous detergents for cleaning. Use all soaps and cleaners sparingly.
- Keep the toilet pump and all parts well lubricated with an eco-friendly marine toilet lubricant (mineral oil may also work well).



# Cleaning

Boat cleaning and maintenance should be done in a manner that avoids contaminating the water with chemicals and product residue and prevents the introduction of unwanted marine organisms. The best time to wash a boat is when it is out of the water on a banded hardstand for its annual maintenance, but it is not practical to lift a boat every time it needs to be washed. Following are some practical tips to clean your vessel without impacting the environment.

- Always try water and a soft bristle brush with a little elbow grease first.
- Look for pH-neutral, phosphate-free, non-toxic, eco-friendly products.
- Use any cleaning solutions sparingly as even those labelled as "biodegradable" may contain substances that might be harmful to marine life.
- Avoid polyethylene products as they contain microplastics.
- Rinse thoroughly after each outing to eliminate salt residue, preventing corrosion and maintaining your gel coat's shine.
- Use wax to reduce the need for cleaning products.





# Maintenance

## *Hull maintenance*

Typically, marina hardstands were once covered by vegetation which has since been replaced by impermeable surfaces, such as concrete, bitumen or paving. This leads to increased runoff when it rains and faster delivery of often poorer quality water to estuaries. The higher levels of pollutants common in stormwater can lead to the dieback of aquatic vegetation and fish kills.

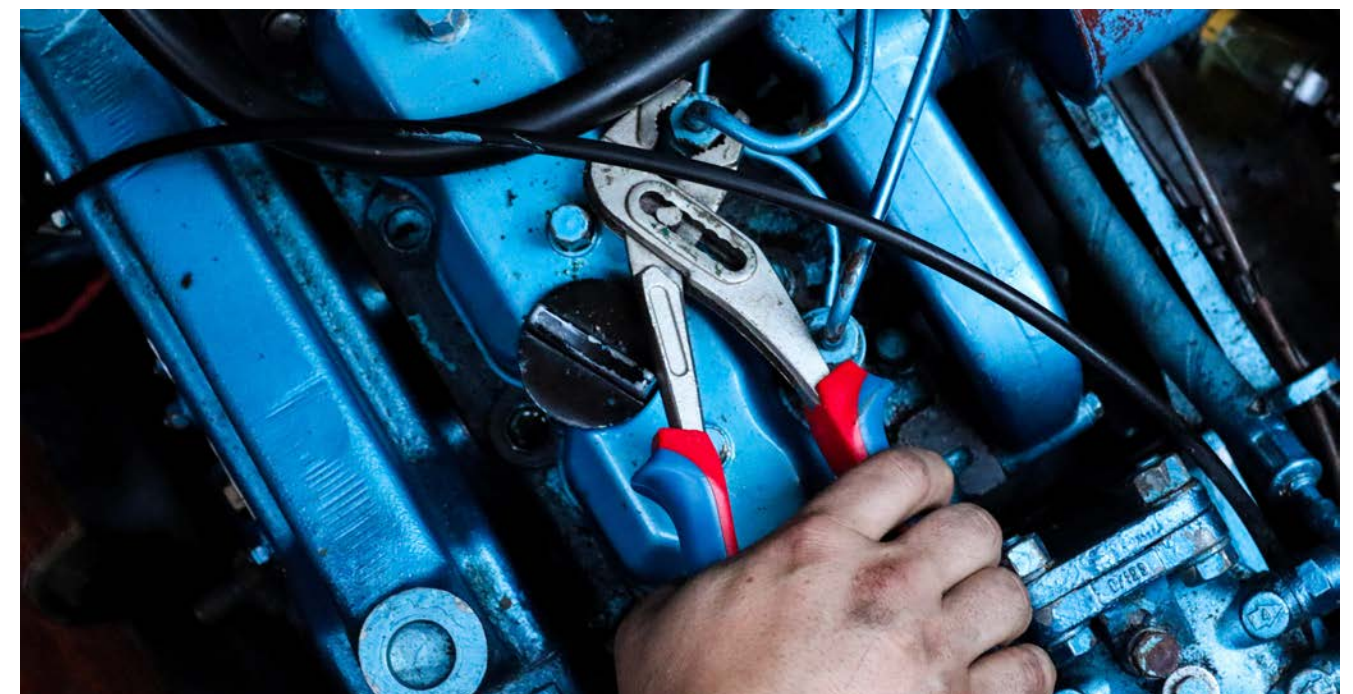
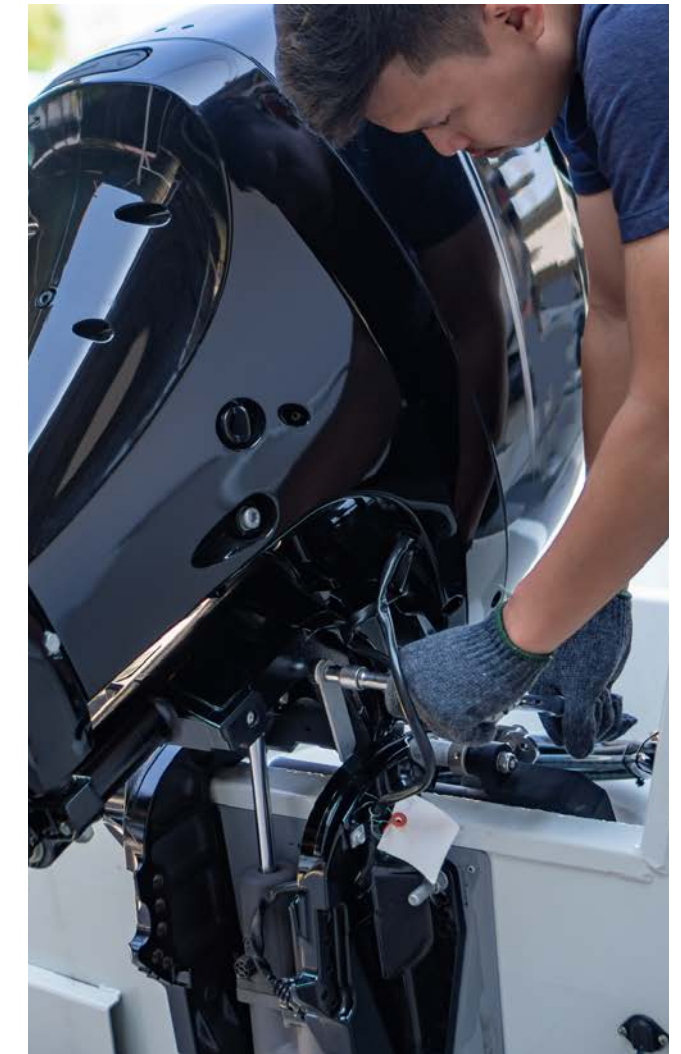
- Always ensure vessel maintenance occurs on a bunded area to ensure any runoff is captured and treated or collected.
- Use a tarpaulin to collect antifoul debris or sweep up and dispose of it immediately.
- Boat paints, strippers and other hull coatings contain harmful components including metals, solvents, and dyes.
- Use nontoxic water-based or biodegradable strippers, cleaners or degreasers.
- Use extractors/ vacuums to collect dust waste.



# Maintenance

## *Engine maintenance*

- Routine engine servicing will help lower fuel costs and emissions. Keep your engine well-tuned to have it perform efficiently, and prevent leaks. Ensure you keep it clean to spot oil and fuel leaks more easily.
- Servicing requires the handling and use of toxic substances such as oil and solvents. Care must be taken to prevent them from entering the waterways and atmosphere.
- Check with Marina staff to find out where engine maintenance can be undertaken at the marina.
- Clean up the work area with absorbent materials and a broom, instead of hosing.
- Ask if your facility has a collection area for boat maintenance wastes such as used oil filters, waste oil, lead-acid batteries, etc.
- Pre-clean engine parts with a wire brush to eliminate the need for solvents.
- If you must use solvents, use VOC-free solvents.
- Use the orange-pink coloured propylene radiator fluids/coolants, which are non-toxic, rather than the blue-green coloured ethylene glycol, which is toxic to marine life.



# Fuelling



- Keep fuel tanks close to capacity to prevent deterioration of the stored fuel.
- Avoid overfilling tanks; fuel expansion can create a potentially explosive condition.
- Never allow any fuel to enter the water.
- Fill portable tanks on shore. Avoid refuelling from a jerry can where possible. Where necessary, do so at a dedicated fuel wharf where spills can be more easily dealt with.
- Establish the location of the fuel spill kit before fuelling.
- Always remain with the fuel hose at the filler point when fuelling.
- Always use an oil-absorbent cloth or pad when fuelling to catch drips, particularly when you remove the fuel nozzle from the boat's fuel tank.
- Prevent spills by not overfilling or topping off the tank and listening to the filler pipe to anticipate when the tank is full.
- To prevent spills from the tank vent of a built-in fuel tank, install a fuel/air separator or an air whistle in your tank line, or use a vent cup to capture overspill.
- Add a stabiliser to your fuel if you use your boat infrequently. This helps preserve fuel and ensures it burns efficiently.
- If you see a leak or spill of any fuel, stop the spill at the source and contact the marina staff immediately.
- Report spills to the marina manager and local waterways authority. Spills should be attended to with absorbent pads or contained and removed. Squirting detergent or emulsifier on an oil slick is not good for the environment, is against the law and can bring heavy fines.

# Renewable Energy

There are many ways you can reduce the environmental impact of boating through renewable energy technologies.

Why let your engine idle when you can power up your electrical items on board with your renewable energy setup? Explore the possibilities and harness renewable energy technologies for a more eco-friendly and efficient way to keep things charged. Consider the following:

- **Wind:** A wind generator can keep your boat charged 24 hours a day, whether you are out boating or at anchor. In strong winds, they often outperform solar panels.
- **Sun:** Solar panels provide effective charging for both small and large boats, providing an average of 5 to 7 hours of daily charging. They operate silently, demand minimum maintenance, and can last up to 25 years.
- **Water:** Hydro generators can be a cost-effective charging solution, however, a minimum speed of 4 knots is recommended. The motion between the moving hull and the water around you can produce ample amounts of electrical power.



# Boat operation

The way that you operate your boat or personal watercraft can have a direct effect on public safety and the environment. When not operated properly, boats can inflict injuries on people, animals and on other property and cause pollution. Specific considerations should be given when you operate your boat. Consider the following tips to make sure your boating activities are safe and protect the environment:

- Operate at the lowest practical speed – slower speeds use less fuel.
- Keep on an even keel and at faster speeds, it is best to get up on the plane to reduce drag.
- Avoid idling when possible.
- Minimise the use of generators.
- Observe rules and regulations including "no wake" zones to protect the local environment.
- Watch your wake when boating near marshes and eroded banks. This could cause erosion.
- Avoid operating through shallow areas. You risk damage to your boat and sensitive habitats, such as seagrass.
- If not familiar with the waters near the shore, proceed cautiously and refer to the most current local charts.
- Consider efficient 4-stroke or direct fuel injection 2-stroke motors for outboards. High-efficiency engines save money on fuel and reduce the level of unused fuel released into the environment.



# Local marine life and foreshore protection



Seagrasses are fragile underwater plants that live in protected bays and other shallow coastal waters. Because they require sunlight to grow, most seagrasses are found in clear shallow waters. These grass-like plants form small patchy beds that develop over many decades into large contiguous beds, known as meadows, which in good quality water with minimal disturbances, grow lush and thick. Healthy seagrass beds reduce wave action during storms, improve water clarity by trapping sediments, stabilise the bottom, provide food for many marine animals and are vital nursery habitats for fish, crustaceans, seahorses, and shellfish. Our opportunities for enjoying a healthy lake are enhanced by protecting seagrasses.

- Do not anchor in seagrass.
- Avoid walking through seagrass.
- If you wish to travel over seagrass, please row or paddle over it.
- Be aware of prop wash. Do not stir up the bottom which increases turbidity and is damaging to the seagrass.
- If you run aground, pole or walk your boat to deeper water. Never try to motor your way out. This will cause extensive damage to seagrass and may harm your motor/s. Know the times for your low and high tides and always watch ahead.

# Biofouling

Biofouling occurs when organisms attach and grow on the submerged parts of a vessel such as the hull, propellers, and rudder. Vessel biofouling can introduce exotic marine species into Australian waters. Once here, they can spread and threaten marine habitats. They can impact our seafood industries, environment, and our economy. Consider the following tips to minimise biofouling.

- Inspect your vessel and equipment after each trip.
- Apply an anti-fouling coating.
- Keep a record of biofouling inspections, cleaning dates, anti-fouling coating dates and any biofouling or marine pests you find.
- Clean vessels away from the water.
- Report any suspected pests or diseased animals.
- Contain cleaning water. When cleaning the vessel, it is important that water used for cleaning and any debris does not return to the waterway, as it may contain harmful pests and diseases.

*Australian antifoul guidelines and in-water cleaning standards:*  
[www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/aircraft-vessels-military/vessels/marine-pest-biosecurity/biofouling/inwater-cleaning-australia](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/aircraft-vessels-military/vessels/marine-pest-biosecurity/biofouling/inwater-cleaning-australia)



# Non-toxic alternatives



The following list provides non-toxic alternatives to typical cleaning products. Please note that even non-toxic substances can cause harm to the environment so use sparingly. When cleaning, always try water and a little elbow grease first.

- All-purpose cleaner: mix one cup of white vinegar with five litres of water.
- Air freshener: an open box of baking soda.
- Ammonia-based cleaners: vinegar, salt, and water.
- Brass cleaner: Paste made with equal amounts of salt, vinegar, and water.
- Copper cleaner: lemon juice and water or paste of lemon juice, salt, and flour.
- Chlorine bleach: baking soda and water.
- Chrome cleaner/polish: apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish.
- Drain opener: disassemble and use a plumber's snake or flush with boiling water. mixed with one quarter cup baking soda and one quarter cup vinegar.
- Fibreglass stain remover: baking soda paste.
- Floor cleaner: one cup of vinegar plus five litres of water.
- Paints: use latex or water-based paints.
- Paint remover/stripper: use a heat gun to peel off paint.
- Paint thinners: use water (effective for water-based paints).
- Stainless steel cleaner: baking soda or mineral oil for polishing, vinegar to remove spots.
- Toilet bowl cleaner: use a toilet brush and baking soda.
- Wood polish: olive or almond oil (interior walls only).
- Window cleaner: mix two tablespoons vinegar in one litre of water or rub glass with newspaper.





**Together we can  
make a difference**

