



Clean Boating Tip Sheet

Waste Containment and Disposal

Trash is ugly and may be dangerous – dangerous to humans and to wildlife. For example, plastic may snare propellers and clog engine intake systems. Congress passed a law in 1987 to protect our waterways from garbage. The Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act regulates the disposal of garbage within U.S. lakes, rivers, and bays. The act states that it is illegal to dump anything. Help others understand ways to protect our environment by passing this information along.

Contain Trash

- Do not allow trash to be thrown or blown overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it. Consider it “crew-overboard” practice.
- Pack food in reusable containers.
- Do not buy products with plastic or excessive packaging.
- Do not toss cigarette butts overboard. They are made of plastic (cellulose acetate).
- Purchase refreshments in recyclable containers and recycle them.
- Properly dispose of all trash on shore. Bring home, or dispose it in a dumpster at the marina.

Recycle

- Recycle cans, glass, newspaper, antifreeze, oil, oil filters, and lead batteries.
- Contact your local county coordinators or the MDEQ for locations.
- Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your tackle shop or marina.

Fish Scraps

Fish cleaning may pose a problem if the wastes are discarded into a poorly flushed marina basin. Fish waste has an unpleasant smell and is unsightly. In addition, decomposing fish waste reduces oxygen levels, harming aquatic life. Avoid problems by following these tips:

- Discard fish wastes in designated areas only.
- Find out what your marina’s disposal policy is.
- Bag waste and dispose at home or in a dumpster.

Proper Waste Disposal

Dispose of the following items according to the recommendations listed below. Visit the MDEQ website at www.michigan.gov/deq, then Pollution Prevention and Recycling, or visit the Michigan Recycling Coalition at www.michiganrecycles.org for the names and numbers of local recycling and hazardous waste coordinators.

Waste Product	Disposal Method
Oil	Recycle.
Oil Filters	Puncture and hot drain for 12 hours. Recycle oil and canister.
Antifreeze	Recycle.
Paint and Varnish	Allow to dry completely and solidify. Dispose in regular trash.
Solvents, Gasoline, and Pesticides	Bring to a household hazardous waste collection.
Expired Emergency Flares	Bring to local fire department or a household hazardous waste collection.