

Best Management Practices for Boat Cleaning



Clean Marinas across Florida are working to keep Florida's coastal and waterway resources clean by implementing Best Management Practices based on industry expertise and sound environmental principles. Please help by reviewing the recommended practices below.



MINIMIZE THE NEED TO CLEAN

- ⇒ Use dry slips and boat lifts
- ⇒ Fresh water rinse after every use
- ⇒ Frequent soft cleaning to avoid the need for abrasive cleaning



REMOVE BOATS FROM WATER WHEN POSSIBLE

- ⇒ Perform cleaning where debris can be captured
- ⇒ Contain and collect rinse water for recycling

IN-WATER CLEANING

USE METHODS THAT PREVENT OR CONTAIN RELEASES TO SURFACE WATERS

- ⇒ Use dry cleaning methods when possible
- ⇒ Wash above waterline by hand
- ⇒ Regular soft cleaning below waterline (sponges and soft towels)
- ⇒ No scraping or abrasive processes



CHOOSE ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCTS

- ⇒ Phosphate free
- ⇒ Biodegradable
- ⇒ Low sudsing or dry application
- ⇒ Use least quantity necessary (more isn't necessarily better)
- ⇒ Avoid
 - Ammonia
 - Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)
 - Chlorinated solvents
 - Petroleum distillates
 - Lye



PREVENT INTRODUCTION OF EXOTIC PLANTS AND ANIMALS

- ⇒ Remove plant fragments from trailers, props, bait wells, fishing tackle, dive gear, etc.
- ⇒ Flush raw water cooling systems and clean sea strainers before launching elsewhere

Cleaning Products: What to Use and Why

When possible use alternatives to cleaning as noted in the BMPs on the reverse side of this document. If cleaning products are needed consider the following environmentally preferable options to choose the product with the least impact on Florida's sensitive marine environment.



CHOOSING ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCTS

- ⇒ Read ingredient list on the label or the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- ⇒ Avoid damaging ingredients such as ammonia, sodium hypochlorite (bleach), chlorinated solvents, petroleum distillates, lye, phosphates, muriatic acid

USE SIGNAL WORDS IF INGREDIENT LIST IS UNAVAILABLE

- ⇒ DANGER equates to extremely flammable, corrosive or toxic
- ⇒ WARNING indicates that the material is moderately hazardous
- ⇒ CAUTION signals a less hazardous product



SELECT PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN NO WARNINGS OR WHICH MERELY CAUTION CONSUMERS.

CONSIDER THESE CLEANING PRODUCT ALTERNATIVES

ALL PURPOSE CLEANER	Mix one cup white vinegar with two gallons water.
AIR FRESHENER	Leave out an open box of baking soda.
AMMONIA-BASED CLEANERS	Vinegar, salt, and water.
BRASS CLEANER	Worcestershire sauce. Or 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. Or borax.
CHROME CLEANER/POLISH	Apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish.
FIBERGLASS STAIN REMOVER	Baking soda paste.
FLOOR CLEANER	One-cup vinegar plus two gallons of water.
WOOD POLISH	Olive or almond oil (interior walls only).
WINDOW CLEANER	Mix two tablespoons vinegar in one quart of water.