

# Protecting our waterways

## A guide for boat operators and boat owners

### Boats in Marinas

#### Why do you need this information?

Most people in the boating industry are fully aware of the importance of the environment to their business. Pollution of waterways is bad for tourism and bad for boating. The boating and marina industry therefore has a vested interest in maintaining and improving the quality of our waterways by ensuring that its activities, and those of its customers, do not pollute the environment.

The activities conducted in and around marinas can immediately pollute waterways. That means that every activity must be done in a way that protects the environment.



Contaminating or polluting waterways, whether intentionally or not, is against the law. Under the Environment Protection Act 1994 you can be issued with an on the spot fine of \$2,000 if you allow deposits of prescribed water contaminants to go into a water body or put in a place so that it could reasonably be expected to wash, blow or fall into waters. Examples of prescribed water contaminants are: chemicals, food scraps, sewage, oil, paint, paint

scrapings, water used for diluting paint or washing painting utensils.

In addition, many activities, such as the unsafe removal of poisonous anti-fouling or lead-based paints, can be a major health hazard to people working or visiting the marina, as well as to marine plant and animal life.

#### What can owners or operators of boats in marinas do to prevent water pollution?

##### Boat washing

Follow these steps to prevent pollutants from the cleaning of boats and motors discharging to waterways.

- Wipe as much oil, fuel and dirt from the motor as possible before rinsing.
- Where possible, rinse boat decks with water only. This may mean more frequent rinsing to avoid dirt and grime build up.
- If using detergent, stop sudsy water from washing off the deck by washing with a mop and collecting the wastewater in a bucket. Empty the wastewater onto a landscaped area or to sewer.
- Wash or rinse outboard motors in a work area where the runoff drains to a pit and the wastewater can be properly treated, reused or disposed of to a trade waste system.

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### **Bilge waters**

It is good practice to use oil-absorbent products on all vessels with inboard motors. For example, absorbent pillows that retain oil but not water can reduce oily water discharges from bilge pumps.

### **Mechanical repairs and maintenance**

- Do not clean or repair engines or parts in outdoor areas where contaminants can pollute the ground, the foreshore or waterways.
- Repair and maintain engines and motor parts in a workshop area with facilities that collect and treat degreasers, solvents and other wastewater.
- If work is outsourced, it is recommended only to use licensed mechanical repair operators who have all the skills, facilities and equipment available to ensure no pollution of the marine environment will occur.



### **Maintenance of vessels in a Marina**

- Check the terms and conditions of your berth agreement and verify with the Marina Management if the work you want to conduct in the Marina is permitted.
- Regularly clean and maintain your work areas. Make sure that no particles or wastewater from cleaning or maintenance work fall or drain into the marine environment.
- Conduct a risk assessment before you start maintenance work on your vessel. If it is likely that you cannot contain pollutants, while conducting the work in the marina, the work should be conducted on an impervious surface that cannot be inundated during high tide (i.e. at a licensed boat yard or slipway).
- Follow a regular maintenance program to ensure the effectiveness of measures designed to minimise marine pollution.

### **Waste**

- Use the waste disposal facilities, which are available in the marina to dispose of your general waste, aluminium cans, (glass) bottles, waste oil, used oil/ fuel filters and batteries. You are encouraged to recycle as much as possible and many recycling options are available in the Marina.

### **For more information please contact**

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