

Austin guide to... **CLEAN BOATING**

There are few things more enjoyable than a day boating on the lake. In order to maintain the clean water that we enjoy in our lakes today, the following are a few tips for boat owners.



Fuel Properly

- Avoid overfilling fuel tank to prevent spills
- Capture escaping fuel with a vent collection device
- If you overfill your tank, wipe it with a rag. Do not hose down the fuel into the water. Give soiled rags to a marina operator for proper disposal
- If spill occurs and reaches the water, quickly contain and clean with oil absorbing pads and pillows – not detergents or soaps

Maintain Your Boat

- Use oil change pans with absorbent pads while draining oil from bilges and then recycle it
- Keep engines well tuned and change oil filters often
- Remove boat from water and clean at approved vehicle wash facility
- Check for leaking fuel lines from tank to engine
- Check bilge water for oils/sheen prior to pulling plug

Clean/Paint Properly

- Remove boat from the water to capture and dispose of debris during refinishing or other polluting activities
- Rent a dustless sander for hull preparation
- Use fresh water to clean boat after every use, preferably on land
- Use detergents sparingly and use environmentally-friendly cleaning methods and products like citrus oil, baking soda, vinegar or lemon juice

Take quick action to stop an oil spill with sorbent material (pads, rags)

Report large spills to the Pollution Hotline



- Ask your marina to stock biodegradable spray cleaners that do not require rinsing
- Use an anti-fouling paint that contains a minimal amount of active biocide
- Do not dispose of cleaning agents or waste to stormdrains or waterway.

Dispose of Trash:

- Stow loose items so they don't blow overboard
- Never throw garbage overboard
- Recycle used fishing line at your marina or tackle shop
- Do not throw fish waste into marina waters --discard waste in trash or use as chum or bait

Remove Sewage:

- Patronize marinas by using shoreside facilities
- Do not empty marine toilets to waterways – must have holding tank that is emptied to approved facilities
- For small boats, encourage use of portable toilets
- Dispose of pet waste on shore

Protect Habitat:

- Protect sensitive habitat by going slowly in shallow areas and avoiding contact with submerged aquatic vegetation
- Remove the invasive plant, hydrilla, from your boat's propeller and trailer before and after boating and dispose of fragments well away from the water (throwing hydrilla back in the lake can result in a \$2000 fine per plant)
- Avoid boating through dense hydrilla mats to minimize fragmentation and prevent its spread
- Pledge to be a Clean Texas Boater by calling (979) 845-3857 or <http://www.cleanmarinas.org>



WATERSHED
PROTECTION

512-974-2550