

What is the Virginia Clean Boater Program?

The Virginia Clean Boater Program is an important part of the Virginia Clean Marina Program, which is designed to assist marina, boatyard and yacht club operators in protecting the resources that provide their livelihood: clean water and fresh air. Both programs are voluntary and give participants the resources needed to minimize pollution. The Virginia Clean Boater Program recognizes boaters for being good stewards by doing their part to keep the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia waterways clean.



Why should I be a Virginia Clean Boater?

By adopting pollution prevention measures, Virginia Clean Boaters can take satisfaction in knowing they are doing their part in:

- Keeping Virginia waterways clean
- Preserving our waterways for the future
- Learning and teaching clean boating habits.

How do I become a Virginia Clean Boater?

1. Read the "Clean Boating Tips" card.
2. Agree to follow the tips by signing the attached pledge card.
3. Mail your pledge card to the Virginia Clean Boater Program office.
4. Display your Virginia Clean Boater sticker on your vessel.
5. Support a clean marina. Go to www.virginiacleanmarina.com to view a list of Virginia Clean Marinas.

Clean Boating Tips

Contain Trash -

- Do not let trash get thrown or blown overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it.
- Pack food in reusable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging. Plastic is deadly to fish and birds.
- Do not toss cigarette butts overboard; they are made of plastic (cellulose acetate).
- Purchase refreshments in recyclable containers.

Recycle -

- Recycle cans, glass, plastic, newspaper, anti-freeze, oil, and lead batteries.
- Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your marina or tackle shop.

Fuel Cautiously -

- Remember, fuel expands as it warms up.
- Fill your tank just before leaving on a trip.
- If you do fill your tank upon your return to port, fill it to only 90% capacity.
- Use oil absorbent material to catch drips from the fuel intake and the vent overflow.
- Fill portable fuel tanks ashore.
- Add a fuel stabilizer to your tank if engine is used infrequently.

Control Oil in the Bilge -

- Keep your engine well tuned: no leaking seals, gaskets, or hoses.
- Place oil absorbent material or bio-remediating bilge boom in the bilge.
- Place an oil absorbent pad under the engine.
- Replace oil absorbent materials at least once a year.
- Check fuel lines for damage; replace with alcohol resistant hoses.
- Secure fuel hoses to prevent chafing and leaks.
- Never discharge bilge water with a sheen. It is illegal.

Properly Dispose of Oil Absorbent Materials -

- If the pad is saturated with gas, allow it to air dry. Reuse.
- If the pad is saturated with diesel or oil, double bag it in plastic by placing one bag sealed inside another. Dispose in regular trash.
- Bio-remediating bilge booms should not be put in plastic bags.
- Discard in regular trash.

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By signing this card I pledge to:

- ◆ Recycle when possible
- ◆ Keep Virginia waters free of trash
- ◆ Practice proper fueling
- ◆ Use pump-out facilities
- ◆ Support a clean marina

Print Name

Address

Signature/Date

Clean Boater Pledge:

As a participant in the Virginia Clean Marina Clean Boater partnership, I have read the Clean Boating Tips and do pledge to abide by the guidelines covered therein. I will further ensure that all passengers aboard my vessel follow the guidelines and maintain a clean boating environment. On receipt, I will prominently display my Clean Boater sticker on my vessel.

Fill out the attached pledge card and mail it to receive your clean boating materials and start making a difference!

Postage
Required

Virginia Clean Boater Program
C/O Virginia Clean Marina Program
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062



Clean Gently -

- Wash your boat frequently with a sponge and plain water.
- Use detergents sparingly.
- Use phosphate-free, bio-degradable and non-toxic cleaners.
- Wax your boat. A good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained.
- Clean wood with a mild soap powder and a nylon brush.
- Conserve water. Put a spray nozzle on your hose.

Maintain Your Vessel Wisely -

- Collect all paint chips, dust, and residue. Dispose in regular trash.
- Share leftover paint and varnish.
- Bring used solvents and waste gas to local hazardous waste collection sites.
- Use less toxic propylene glycol antifreeze.
- Keep your engine clean so you can spot leaks.
- Slip a plastic bag over used oil filters.
- Consider alternatives to toxic bottom paints.

Sewage -

- Never discharge raw sewage in U.S. territorial waters.
- Use restrooms on shore.
- Under way, use approved Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs).
- Discharge Type I or Type II MSDs over deep water. Avoid swimming areas, marinas, anchorages, and oyster bars.
- Establish a regular maintenance schedule for your MSD, based on manufacturer's recommendations.
- Pump out and rinse holding tanks regularly.
- Use enzyme-based products to control odor and reduce solids in holding tanks.
- Avoid holding tank products that contain quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC) and formaldehyde.

Dispose of Fish Waste Properly -

- Do not throw fish waste into marina waters.
- Discard waste over deep water or in the trash.
- Or, save waste and use as chum or bait.

Protect Sensitive Habitat -

- Proceed slowly in shallow areas.
- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Avoid contact with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
- Watch your wake. It can lead to shoreline erosion.

Be a Responsible Boater -

- Learn about environmentally safe products and practices.
- Share the information with other boaters.
- Obey laws governing speeding, littering, and discharge.
- Encourage boating facilities to provide trashcans, recycling bins, and pumpout stations.
- Support marinas that are environmentally responsible.

Clean Boating Materials

The following materials are available free of charge from the Virginia Clean Marina Program office.

Clean Boating Tips. Found on this card are tips and information for boaters dedicated to keeping their boats clean and safe.

Boat Holding Tank Pump-Out Facilities in Virginia is a comprehensive list of Virginia marinas equipped with pump-out and dump stations.

Shipsshape Shores and Waters: a handbook for marina operators and recreational boaters. It includes tips and information on best practices to use for boat cleaning and maintenance, boat operation, and boat sewage disposal.

The Virginia Clean Marina Program

The Virginia Clean Marina Program is a joint partnership of the Virginia Sea Grant College Program, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).



For more information contact your marina operator or the Virginia Clean Marina Program at (804) 684-7768 or Fax at (804) 684-7161 or visit our web site at www.virginiacleanmarina.com

Virginia Clean Boater Program

Good Stewards
of Virginia's Waterways

