



Maryland Clean Boating Lesson Plan

Section 4
Vessel Cleaning and
Maintenance

Vessel Cleaning: Environmental Concerns



- Boats require maintenance and cleaning.
- Cleaners can run-off directly into the waters.
- Boat cleaners can strip oil from fish gills, reducing their ability to breathe.
- Paints and chemicals are typically hazardous.
- Paint chips containing heavy metals could enter the water, and the food web

Vessel Cleaning: Clean Carefully

- 1. Rinse with fresh water after every trip.
- 2. When the boat is dirty, clean with fresh water and elbow grease first. Avoid soaps.
- 3. "Spot Clean" scuffs or stains and wipe up rather than hose soap into the water.
- 4. Wax the boat to prevent dirt from setting in.
- 5. Choose cleaners carefully.



Vessel Cleaning: Read Product Labels!

- > Read product labels.
- Don't believe general "environmental" claims.
- Look for independent certifications such as "Green Seal" or EPA "Design for the Environment."





Alternatives to Toxic Products

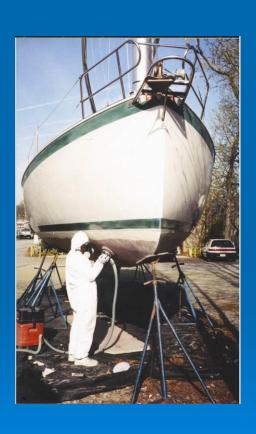
Product

- >Bleach
- >Scouring powder
- > General Cleaner
- >Glass Cleaner
- ➤ Head and Shower Cleaner
- > Chrome Cleaner

Alternative

- >**Borax**
- **≻Baking soda**
- ▶Baking soda and vinegar
- **≻Vinegar and water**
- **≻Baking soda**
- ➤ Apple cider vinegar

Maintain Mindfully



- Collect paint dust and chips.
- Use dustless sanders/grinders.
- > Follow marina rules.
- Use low-toxic antifreeze (usually pink in color).
- Consult a professional to pick your bottom paint.
- Dispose of solvents and waste gas properly–accepted at household hazardous waste collection days.

Pass it On. "Pier Pressure"

- Let your friends know that your care about clean water and want to do your part.
- Share information you learn here with them.
- ➤ In a friendly way, use "Pier Pressure" to get them to help protect our waterways too.

