



## **Boat Owners: Help Keep the West and Rhode Rivers Clean**

The following information is designed to assist boat owners in keeping the West and Rhode Rivers clean. The information is drawn from the fact sheet: “Your Boat and the Bay”, found on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation web site<sup>1</sup> as well as U.S. Coast Guard informational materials.

### **Cleaning Boats:**

Avoid detergent use by rinsing boats frequently with plain water. When required, use detergents sparingly, and choose environmentally safe cleaning products. These products should include statements that the product is environmentally safe, is chlorine and phosphate free, and is biodegradable. If you use engine degreasers while the boat is in the water, wipe up all residues with an absorbent cloth, rather than rinsing into the Bay.

To clean teak wood, use mild powder soap with bronze instead of chemical teak cleaners, which are hard on wood and gelcoat and harmful to the Bay.

### **Painting Boats:**

While the chemical properties of bottom paint are effective in reducing marine growth, these paints should be treated with care to avoid impacting the West and Rhode Rivers. Place a tarp on the ground during painting preparation (sanding and scraping) and while applying bottom paint to your boat. Please remember to take empty or partially full bottom paint cans, tarps with paint prep residues, and brushes to your hazardous materials site for disposal.

### **Using Waste Pump Out Stations:**

Human waste contains nitrogen and phosphates that contribute to water pollution such as algal blooms and oxygen depletion as well as containing bacterial that can transmit diseases to

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<sup>1</sup> Go to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation website: [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org), click on “Explore” then “Resources” and “Fact Sheets”. Scroll down to “About the Bay”.

swimmers. Be sure to empty your waste tanks before they are full, lessening the chance for waste to spill into the bay.

**Rhode River Pump Out Stations:**

Rhode River  
Blue Water Marina  
Cadle Creek Marina  
Casa Rio Marina  
Holiday Hill Marina, and  
Rhode River Marina

**West River Pump Out Stations:**

Backyard Boats  
Chesapeake Yacht Club  
Clarks Landing of Shady Side  
Hartge Yacht Club  
Leatherbury Point Marina  
Pirates Cove Marina  
Shady Oaks Marina  
West River Yacht Harbor Condo  
Association.

Site locations, phone numbers and hours of operation can be found at:

<http://www.boatingthechesapeake.com/pump-out.html>.

**Pets:**

If you bring your pet on board, please remember to pick up after it should you use a local beach or shoreline for walking purposes. Animal waste is harmful to the bay as well as human waste.

**Avoiding Fuel Spills:**

When fueling, use absorbent pads over the fuel nozzles and a spill cup over fuel vents to prevent spills at the fuel dock. Keep in mind that fuel expands as it warms up, and when you fill your tank after a trip, fill only to 90%. Fuel leaks represent a significant safety threat to the boat operator and a threat to the environment as well. The U.S. Coast Guard encourages vessel owners to examine their own fuel systems for worn or cracked hoses, rusted hose clamps, damaged filters, or other problems that could lead to a fuel leak.

**Avoiding Oil Spills:**

Use absorbent materials such as cloths, pads or pillows to soak up oil if it does reach your bilge. There are various devices on the market to help prevent oil from being pumped overboard, such as: pumps that shut down if they detect oil, and filters that remove oil contamination from oily bilge water. Remember that it is illegal to discharge bilge water with a sheen. **Never use soaps or other detergents on oil spills**, as they mix oil into the water, spreading the contamination.

**Reporting Spills:** Report oil, gasoline, and paints to the U.S. Coast Guard at 800-424-8802.

## **CONFUSED ABOUT HAZARDOUS MATERIALS?**

If you are wondering what materials you can put in your normal trash, and what materials should be taken to a Hazardous Materials site, Anne Arundel County offers the following advice:

Items not suitable for normal trash are those containing toxic chemicals including: wood preservatives, pesticides, flammable liquids, oil-based paint, fluorescent light fixtures, batteries, disinfectants, used motor oil and antifreeze.

Location of the site and the 2006 Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off days schedule can be found at the County web site (<http://www.aacounty.org/DPW>).

## **CLEAN MARINAS**

The West Rhode Riverkeepers offer congratulations to the following West and Rhode River area marinas that meet the rigorous pollution prevention standards established by the Maryland Clean Marina Committee and the Department of Natural Resources. The operators have voluntarily adopted measures to control pollution associated with marina operations and stand as notable examples of the conservation ethic: individual responsibility for healthy land and water.

Casa Rio, Mayo  
Chalk Point Marine, West River  
Hartge Yacht Yard, Galesville  
Rhode River Marina, Edgewater

For more information on the Clean Marina Program, go to the DNR site at <http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/>, and click on Clean Marinas.

See you on the river!