

Clean boating practices best

The small, extra efforts and expenses required to practice clean boating make sense for our families' health and safety, for the environment, and for the future of recreational boating.

Here are a few reminders to help you be a clean boater this summer:

- Keep your trash on board.

Never throw cigarette butts, fishing line, or any other garbage into the water. Be sure to carry plenty of trash bags. Take advantage of shore-side facilities to recycle plastic, glass, metal, and paper.

- Prevent oily discharge from the bilge.

Keep your engine well tuned to prevent fuel and oil leaks. Inspect your bilge

water prior to pumping. If there's a sheen to it, use an oil-absorbent pad (available for purchase at most marinas) to remove oils before discharging.

- Spill-proof your fueling practices.

Prevent fuel spills by filling fuel tanks slowly and carefully and by using absorbent pads or rags to catch drips and spills. Don't "top off" your fuel tank; leave 5 percent empty to allow fuel to expand as it warms so your tank won't overflow.

- Minimize boat cleaning and maintenance in the water.

If possible, wait until you take your boat out of the water to do cleaning and maintenance. When working on the water, use

phosphate-free, chlorine-free, and nontoxic cleansers, and contain waste by using tarps and vacuum sanders.

For more information, or to arrange a free visit with a runoff management professional, contact Randy Anhorn, administrator/limnologist at the CLFLWD offices at 651-209-9753 or send an e-mail to: randy.anhorn@clflwd.org

Additional information on the CLFLWD's cost-share program can be found at clflwd.org.

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