

How to Wash and Service Your Boat for a Clean Creek



Be a Good Creek Neighbor!

Keep Trash, Oil,
Solvents and Toxics
Out of Our Creek

The Spa Creek Conservancy is a volunteer organization dedicated to educating itself and its diverse resident and business neighbors to create, explore and carry out the rehabilitation and restoration of the Spa Creek watershed to meet its urban conservation and stewardship challenges

For More Information
Visit SINCH:
www.spacreek.org

Want to Get Involved to
Protect and Restore Spa Creek?

JOIN the Spa Creek Conservancy

Protect Habitat

Go slowly in shallow areas so as not to disturb wildlife, touch submerged aquatic vegetation, erode shoreline with your wake, or stir up sediment which reduces the light underwater

Buy Products that Protect the Creek

Find out about environmentally safe products and practices. Share the information with others. Consider 4-stroke or low emission outboard engines, or state of the art electric engines.

Encourage Your Local Marina to...

Provide trash cans, recycling bins and pumpout stations.

Get in touch with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to find out how to become a Certified Clean Marina (410-260-8770).

Support marinas that are environmentally responsible.

Remember...

- Do not put anything in the water: (no cigarette butts, orange peels, wrappers)
- Plastic and aluminum drink can tops are deadly to fish.
- Wash your boat with a sponge and plain water. Don't use chlorine!
- Keep oils and battery acid, solvents and paint out of the water.

References and Resources

Chesapeake Regional Information Services
800-662-CRIS

MD Dept. Natural Resources, www.dnr.state.md.us
410-974-3987

I would like to join the Spa Creek Conservancy, Inc. and contribute:
 Regular/Family \$20 Associations/Businesses \$50
 Patrons \$100 Benefactors \$500

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Where you would like to be involved: _____

Please make out your check to: Spa Creek Conservancy, Inc.

Mail to: SCC Treasurer, P.O. Box 2199, Annapolis, MD 21404-2199

Manage Your Boat for a Clean Creek and Bay

Did you know?

- Boat bottom paint and solvents have been identified as sources of toxic contaminants in Spa Creek.
- A drop of oil can pollute a million drops of fresh water
- A single quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water.
- Everything that washes into gutters and storm drains from your boat ends up in Chesapeake Bay
- Cooperstown, New York is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Just imagine the damaging effects of this huge area draining into Chesapeake Bay.

Good Creek Neighbors Can Keep Boats from Polluting

Keep Trash Out of the Water

- Put nothing in the water, even cigarette butts.
- Rescue anything that gets blown in. *Plastics and aluminum drink tabs are deadly to fish and birds.*
- Buy products without excess packaging.
- Purchase refreshments in containers you can recycle

Recycle! What & Where?

- Cans, glass, plastic, newspaper, antifreeze, oil and lead batteries.

- **Visit www.mde.state.md.us or www.menv.com or call 1-800-4-RECYCLE for locations.**
- Recycle used monofilament fishing line by taking it to a tackle shop.

Fueling Your Boat

Fuel expands as it warms, so fill only to 90% and fill up just before leaving on a trip. Use oil absorbent cloth to catch drips and overflows. Fill portable fuel tanks ashore. **Report spills to the U. S. Coast Guard: 800-424-8802.** Add a fuel stabilizer to your tank if you use your engine infrequently.

Washing Your Boat

Wash gently and often. Use a sponge and plain water. Wax your boat—a good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained. Use detergents *sparingly* and use phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners. Do not use *chlorine*! Clean wood with a mild soap powder and nylon brush. Conserve water—put a spray nozzle on your hose.

Maintaining Your Boat

Be Careful and Wise every time you use your boat, especially when commissioning for the season. Most anti-fouling paints contain toxic materials such as copper, mercury, arsenic or tributyltin. The volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in commonly used topside paints are also a concern. Ask about the newer, environmentally safer paints. Dispose of *all* paint chips, dust and residue in the trash. Share leftover paint and varnish.

All solvents are toxic. Use carefully and save. Take used solvents, waste gas, used oil filters (bagged in plastic) to local hazardous waste collection sites. Call 410-222-7954 for further information.

Control Oil In The Bilge

Keep engine tuned up, repair all leaks, and have oil absorbent material in the bilge. Replace it once a

year. Dispose of oil absorbent materials by double bagging in heavy plastic bags, put them in the trash. Use enzyme-based bilge cleaners. *Never discharge bilge water with a sheen. It is illegal.*

Disposing Of Oil Absorbent Materials

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

Changing Oil

Clean up all drips and recycle used oil at a public collection area. See www.menv.com for recycling locations.

Batteries

Battery acid is as lethal to the environment as it is to your skin. Store batteries under cover and recycle when no longer needed. Most battery vendors will accept old batteries for proper disposal.

Propane tanks

Handle carefully to prevent gas from escaping. Highly volatile and flammable, propane is heavier than air and will drop to the lowest part of the boat (the bilge) and explode with a flash fire when the engine is started. Recycle unwanted tanks.

Onboard Heads (Toilets)

Never discharge raw sewage - it is illegal. Use the restroom ashore if possible. Use approved Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs) on boats, and maintain regularly. Pump out holding tanks at approved facilities, rinse using enzyme-based products. Avoid products containing quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC) and formaldehyde. Visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating or call 410-260-8770.