

Use your Purchasing Power to Reduce Water Pollution

Although natural cleaning alternatives are preferred, if you choose to purchase boat cleaning products, please take time to read product labels. Labels convey information about the degree of hazard associated with a particular product.

When it comes to warning labels, be an informed consumer.

DANGER/POISON	Extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic.
WARNING	Indicates a material is moderately hazardous.
CAUTION	A less hazardous product. Between the warning labels choose this one.

Choose products that are: **Phosphate Free**

Products containing phosphates spur algae growth, depleting oxygen and killing fish.

Chlorine Free

Products that contain chlorine are toxic to lake ecosystems.

Biodegradable

The product will breakdown over time into harmless materials.

Non-toxic

Non-toxic products will only cause damage in very large amounts.

Please remember, all detergents ruin the protective external mucus layers of fish leaving them susceptible to bacteria and parasites. Cleaners also cause damage to the gills hindering respiration, and can kill both eggs and the fish themselves depending upon the concentrations.

Additionally, the use of cleaners with phosphates can cause excessive algae growth in our waterways. Phosphates fertilize the algae to the point where it grows out of control resulting in a resurgence of algae blooms. Excessive algae blooms are a nuisance to boaters and swimmers who must navigate and recreate in large green blobs of goop.



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Keep It Clean

Alternative cleaning products
and practices for boaters.



Watershed
Council

BOATER BUNDLE SERIES



Be part of
the solution.

Be a Clean
Boater.

Use natural alternatives
for cleaning your boat.

IF YOU TRAILER, avoid cleaning at
slip or dockside. Clean your boat
on grass or gravel when possible.

Ways YOU can Keep It Clean:

- If you have to clean your boat while it's still in the water, **DO NOT** dispose of cleaning products by dumping them overboard or discharging overboard with a bilge pump.
- Wash your boat frequently with plain water.
- If you use detergents, use phosphate-free and biodegradable cleaners sparingly to minimize discharge into water.
- If appropriate, wax your boat. A good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained.

Natural Cleaning Alternatives for Boaters

When you clean your boat, cleaning products may end up in the water. You can minimize environmental impacts by using the following simple household alternatives. ALWAYS be sure to use any cleaning product sparingly to minimize the amount that discharges into the water.

SURFACE

ALTERNATIVE CLEANER

General

Baking soda and vinegar or lemon juice with borax paste

Fiberglass

Baking soda and salt

Aluminum

1 Tbsp cream of tartar in half liter of hot water

Brass

Worcestershire sauce or vinegar, salt, and water solution

Chrome

Vinegar and salt solution

Copper

Lemon juice and water or lemon juice, salt and flour

Clear Plastic

1 part vinegar to 2 parts water

Mildew

White vinegar and salt solution or scrub with borax/water

Shower

Wet the area, apply baking soda and wipe

Toilet

Baking Soda or vinegar

Windows

1 part vinegar to 2 parts water

Wood Trim

Polish with olive, walnut or almond oil

Chrome/
Metal

Apply cider vinegar to clean, baby oil to polish

Stainless
Steel

Baking soda or mineral oil to polish, vinegar to remove spots

Bleaching

Borax

Scouring

Baking soda

Rug/
Upholstery

Sprinkle with dry corn starch and vacuum

These tips can be used in
your home or cottage too.