



BOATER KIT EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES

Thanks again for your interest in the California Recreational Boater Kits. We truly value your willingness to practice and promote clean boating practices in California.

The Boater kits were designed to promote environmentally-sound boating and to help boat owners implement clean boating practices. These are high quality items - the value of each kit is approximately \$40 (not including design, assembly and other administrative costs). It is important to conduct face-to-face boater education with each boater kit recipient, including reviewing the items within the kits and their messages. In this way you will ensure the kits are delivered in a way that will successfully promote environmentally sound and safe boating. Otherwise, the Program's limited funding may be wasted without raising awareness and improving clean boating practices in California.



Recommended TIPS for Distributing Kits:

1. In order to capture boaters' attention, a recommended strategy is to show the boater kits and tell the boater that it is free.
2. **Before** handing the boater kit to the boater, it is important to ask boaters to first fill out the **2009 Boater Questionnaire** indicating that it will only take about 4 – 5 minutes of their time.
3. When the boater returns the questionnaire to you, quickly look it over to see that it is complete, then tell the boater about the Kit contents.
4. Once you have collected the questionnaire, please discuss the materials included in the boater kits with the recipient, emphasizing the main message associated with each of the materials (See the main messages below). *Be aware that the most significant items are the three-hole punch laminated card and the oil absorbent.*
5. **2009 Boater Questionnaire:** Please make sure you include the questionnaire date and location. In Q1, please mark the option Dockwalker. On the back of each survey, please include your name so we can keep track of the questionnaires you are collecting for the 2009 Dockwalker contest.

The main messages you need to share with the boater kit recipients include:

- **Prevent oily discharges into the water.** To prevent oily discharges, place an oil absorbent (such as the included pillow) in the bilge. There is a loop on the pillow, which can be secured with the included zip tie; this keeps the pillow out of the way. Boaters can also use the absorbent to clean up spills or when fueling. Used oil absorbents are hazardous waste and can not be disposed of in a trash can. Please read over the information included on the oil absorbent wrapper to understand how to use the absorbent and where to properly dispose of it.
- It is **illegal** to use soaps, or any bilge or cleaning products to remove oil sheen on the water. Cleaning products pollute the environment and don't remove oil from the water.
- Change oil using a closed system, such as a pump.
- Recommend boaters to ask the marina, yacht club, fuel dock operators or harbormasters for disposal locations. Some marinas actively distribute and collect oil absorbents or call **(800) CLEANUP** (253-2687) or visit www.earth911.org for Household Hazardous waste disposal locations near you. This number and web site provide local information by zip code. The Tidebooks also provide information on

some marinas providing oil collection services. If you receive the [NCA Boater kits](#), please check the Tidebook on pages 62-64 for some marinas providing environmental services for boaters including oil collection, sewage and bilge pumpouts and oil absorbent distribution and collection. If you receive a [SCA Boater Kit](#), please check the SCA Tidebook (Pages: 20-38).

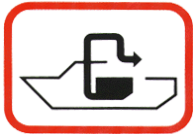
- Recommend that boaters practice periodic preventive engine maintenance to keep engines well tuned and working at a peak efficiency.
- Avoid bilge cleaners that contain detergents or emulsifiers. These chemicals may clean the bilge, but they contaminate the water by chemically bonding the oil/fuel with the water. These toxins will be discharged into California waterways when the bilge pump is activated.
- Recommend boaters to review the brochure entitled “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know.” This publication includes current laws related to oil and dispersants, their citations and potential fines.
- **Recycle used oil and oil filters.** Many people are not aware that used oil filters are recyclable and should not be thrown in the trash. *Used oil is a hazardous waste.* Some marinas accept used oil and used oil filters. For proper disposal of used oil and oil filters, recommend that boaters ask the marina, yacht club or harbormaster for disposal locations, or for the locations of certified used oil and household hazardous waste collection centers or call (800) CLEANUP (253-2687) or visit www.earth911.org



- Please let boaters know that the “Oil drop” logo identifies oil recycling locations. **[Only after they complete the boater questionnaire]** This logo is found on the back of the Tidebooks as well as on the oil absorbent wrapper.

- **For hazardous waste disposal and information about where to find a sewage pumpout, oil absorbent distribution and collection, used oil collection, and other clean boating services call 1 (800) CLEANUP (253-2687) or visit www.earth911.org.** This number and web site provide local information by zip code. These resources are included on several items in the boater kit including the tote bag, the three-hole punch binder card and the oil absorbent wrapper. If you receive the NCA Boater kits, please check the Tidebook on pages 62-64 for some marinas providing environmental services for boaters including oil collection, sewage and bilge pumpouts and oil absorbent distribution and collection. If you receive a SCA Boater Kit, please check the SCA Tidebook (Pages: 20-38). Also, recommend boaters to review the brochure entitled “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know.” This publication includes current laws related to hazardous waste, their citations and potential fines.
- **Always report all oil and chemical spills to both the National Response Center (800-424-8802) and the CA Office of Emergency Services (800-OILS911 (645-7911)).** These phone numbers as well as other useful phone numbers are also included on the back of the three-hole punch binder card (“Who to Call” section).
- **Reduce spillage from refueling.**
 - Shut off motors and electrical equipment before fueling
 - Fill tanks slowly to prevent overflows from the air vent. Avoid “topping-off” the tank.
 - Don’t rely on the automatic shut-off nozzle to prevent spills; they don’t shut off in time.
 - Know your tank capacity. Leave the tank at least 10% empty because fuel expands. Choose to refuel on land whenever possible. Install fuel spill prevention devices and use absorbents for spills.
- **Raw sewage should never be discharged overboard** within the three-mile territorial limit.
 - All boats with an installed toilet must have a Coast Guard approved Marine Sanitation Device (MSD).

- Always use a pumpout facility to empty holding tanks. Use dump stations for port-a-potties. Ask boaters to look for this symbol for marinas with sewage pumpout services. This symbol is included in the three-hole punch binder card. Boaters can also call **1 (800) CLEANUP** (253-2687), visit www.earth911.org or www.dbw.ca.gov for pumpout locations.
- No sewage, treated or untreated, should be discharged in a No-Discharge Zone (NDZ). The California NDZs are included in the Clean Boating Habits publication on page 19.
- Avoid holding tank disinfectants that contain chlorine, formaldehyde or other chemicals that can hurt the environment.
- If you have a holding tank, know the capacity and use a pumpout log to track it. Leave at least 10% of the tank free of sewage and empty it on a regular basis. Full and overfull tanks are difficult and dangerous to drain.



- Please let boaters know that this logo identifies the sewage pumpout locations. **[Only after they complete the boater questionnaire]** This logo is found on the three-hole punched binder card and the Clean Boating Habits Publication.
- Recommend boaters to review the brochure entitled “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know.” This publication includes current laws related to sewage, their citations and potential fines.

- **Keep all pollutants out of the water.** Pollutants include boat maintenance and cleaning products, toxic hull paints, and trash. Use non-toxic and biodegradable products and more elbow-grease. The Clean Boating Habits publication page 6 provides alternative to toxic products and more recommendations. Remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3Rs).
- **Stash your trash.** Avoid excess packaging, pack food in reusable containers; designate an area in the boat to stash the trash and bring it back. Apply the 3Rs; clean up litter and debris. Keep cigarette butts out of the water – they are not biodegradable. Recommend that boaters use the plastic bag included in the boater kit to bring all their trash back to shore.
- **Always keep safety in mind.** Recommend boaters to check the “ABCs of the Boating Law” flyer to download the latest version of this publication and learn more about current boat safety regulations. Although not required in most instances, California law recommends that boaters read the “ABCs” and take one of the safety classes provided by Department of Boating and Waterways, the Power Squadrons, or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Check the “ABCs of the Boating Law flyer” and www.dbw.ca.gov for more safety information.

Please collect all completed questionnaires and send them to:

Vivian Matuk
 California Department of Boating & Waterways/California Coastal Commission
 (415) 904-6905
 45 Fremont Street, Suite 1900
 San Francisco, CA 94105
vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov

The questionnaire will help us identify gaps in environmental services and better target future educational efforts.

Note: You are welcome to order more kits (up to 54 or three boxes) once the completed questionnaires are returned to the program.

The more boaters you get to fill out the “2009 Boater Questionnaire” the greater your chance of winning a surprise award this fall.

REMEMBER: EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS. Boaters want to protect our water resources; they just need information and easy and convenient services.