

TIPS TO REDUCE SEWAGE DISCHARGE

- ▶ Use onshore public restrooms whenever possible before leaving for a boating trip, or during stops, instead of an onboard toilet.
- ▶ Know where your waste goes and make sure it does not go directly into the water.
- ▶ If you have a flow-through treatment system Type I or Type II Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) - make sure it is working properly and that all your waste goes through the system.
- ▶ Install a holding tank – Type III MSD - and pump it out at one of hundreds of pumpout stations available throughout the state.
- ▶ If you have a Type III MSD check that the Y-valve is securely connected to the holding tank to ensure there is no discharge of raw sewage.
- ▶ Use enzyme-based products in your holding tank instead of deodorizers and disinfectants which contain chemicals harmful to aquatic life.
- ▶ Do not dispose of fats, solvents, oil, emulsifiers, disinfectants, paints, poisons, phosphates and/or diapers in your MSD.
- ▶ Encourage local marina owners to get a pumpout station if they do not have one.

MARINA PUMPOUT SERVICES

To request a pumpout or for more info, please visit the Salty Sam's Marina Ship Store or call us at

239-463-7333

Pumpout service is available during normal operating hours or between 9am and 4pm daily. Rates are posted in the Ship Store.



HELP KEEP FLORIDA'S WATER CLEAN

USE PUMPOUTS



Funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Clean Vessel Act through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

WHY PUMPOUT?

▶ IT'S THE LAW

Federal law and Florida Statute 327.53 prohibits discharging raw sewage in all fresh water or within coastal water limits; nine nautical miles in the Gulf of Mexico and three nautical miles in the Atlantic Ocean.

▶ SEWAGE IN WATERWAYS IS A HEALTH HAZARD

Sewage from boats contains disease-causing microorganisms that when discharged into waterways can impact the environment as well as human health. Untreated discharge from one weekend boater puts the same amount of bacterial pollution into the water as the treated sewage of 10,000 people. Typhoid, hepatitis, cholera, gastroenteritis and other waterborne diseases can be transmitted through contaminated waters and infected shellfish.

▶ HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Sewage reduces oxygen levels in the water that fish and other aquatic species need to survive. Since the microorganisms within the sewage need oxygen, any discharge into waterways reduces the amount of oxygen available to fish and other aquatic life. Heavy nutrient loads in sewage also promote excessive algae growth preventing life-giving sunlight from reaching subsurface vegetation.

HOW DOES A PUMPOUT STATION OPERATE?

A boater will secure their boat either at a dock or a mooring field and request pumpout service from the provider. A hose and fitting is then connected from the pumpout equipment to the deck fitting on the boat. The system is turned on and either pumped directly into a local sewer system or pumped into a holding tank.

ARE MARINE SANITATION DEVICES SUBJECT TO INSPECTION?

Yes. When the owner or operator is aboard, an officer may board a vessel with consent or if there is probable cause or knowledge to believe that a violation has occurred or is occurring. An officer may also board a vessel if the operator refuses or is unable to display the safety or marine sanitation equipment.

WHAT DO THE LAWS SAY?

Crafts are required by Florida Statute 327.53, to have a working toilet on board when in State waters. Federal law prohibits the discharge of untreated sewage from vessels within navigable waters of the United States, which include territorial seas within three miles of shore and most bays and estuaries. Boats with Type I and II marine sanitation devices (MSD's) may discharge treated effluent in coastal waters unless they are in a no discharge area. Violations are non-criminal infractions carrying fines of \$50 (equipment) and \$250 (discharge). If a houseboat or floating structure fails to comply within 30 days of being cited, the court can order removal of the craft at the owner's expense.

WHICH CRAFTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A WORKING TOILET ONBOARD?

According to Florida Statute 327.53, any vessel 26 feet or longer with an enclosed cabin and berthing facilities. Any houseboat, defined as a vessel used primarily as a residence and not moved for 21 out of 30 days in a county of this State. Any floating structure with enclosed living space with berthing facilities or workspace with public access.

WHAT IS THE CLEAN VESSEL ACT?

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) provides funding for construction of pumpout and dump station facilities that will help ensure proper disposal of human sewage from recreational boats. The CVA was initially authorized by Congress in 1992 to be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This Act provides over \$10 million of additional funds each year to keep alternatives available to prevent improper disposal of recreational boater sewage.

