

WATERFRONT WISDOM — HEALTHY HABIT #7: PROPERLY MAINTAIN YOUR BOATS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

As a waterfront homeowner, you have a unique opportunity to contribute to the health of your local waterway. Many activities we conduct near the waterfront, in our lawns and gardens and around our home, impact water quality. This is even more critical to riparian homeowners because runoff doesn't have far to travel before reaching the water. We can prevent water pollution by being aware that our actions DO impact water quality. We can all make a difference by practicing Healthy Habits for Clean Water.

CHALLENGE: Harmful chemicals, excess nutrients and aquatic invasive species that harm native aquatic life and degrade water quality.

CAUSE: Oil and gasoline from boats and other recreational vehicles can contaminate water supplies and harm aquatic life. Detergents and chemicals that may be used to wash boats and vehicles could end up in storm drains if washed on paved surfaces. Aquatic invasive species negatively impact habitat and recreation.

SOLUTION: CAREFUL SELECTION AND USE OF NON-TOXIC CLEANERS ON BOATS AND VEHICLES WILL PROTECT WATER QUALITY. CLOSE INSPECTION OF BOATS AND TRAILERS PRIOR TO MOVING THEM TO OTHER WATERBODIES IS CRUCIAL TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

WASH BOATS AND VEHICLES: Wash boats and vehicles on the grass or at a manual car washing facility to avoid runoff of chemicals and detergents into lakes and streams.

USE NON-TOXIC CLEANERS: Wash boats and recreational vehicles with phosphate-free soaps and avoid solvent-based cleaners. The best and most natural cleaner is plain old water. Wash boats with water, elbow grease and a coarse cloth. Other natural cleaners include: baking soda, borax and lemon or lime juice.

DUMP NO WASTE! Do not put waste, such as used motor oil, down a storm drain. Storm drains lead directly to our lakes and streams. Properly dispose of used fluids at your local service stations or household hazardous waste drop-off site.

CHECK FOR LEAKS: Use appropriate containers for gas, oil or other fluids and ensure proper maintenance. Clean up leaks onto pavement promptly with an appropriate absorbent material, such as kitty litter. Dispose of properly.

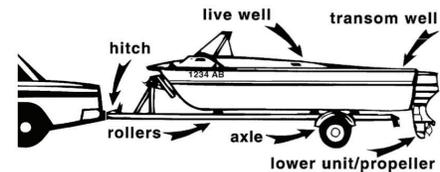
CLEAN AND DRY: Anything that comes into contact with the water such as equipment, clothing, dogs, etc. should be thoroughly cleaned and dried.

RETURN TO SENDER: Do not release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS



WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anchor | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare tire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Axle | <input type="checkbox"/> Landing net | <input type="checkbox"/> Tackle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bait bucket | <input type="checkbox"/> License plate | <input type="checkbox"/> Tow rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bunks | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bow line | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheels | <input type="checkbox"/> Transducer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing line | <input type="checkbox"/> Live well | <input type="checkbox"/> Transom well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floor | <input type="checkbox"/> Lights/wiring | <input type="checkbox"/> Trolling motor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hull | <input type="checkbox"/> Rollers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intake pipe | <input type="checkbox"/> Prop | |

**WORKING TOGETHER WITH BOATERS
TO PROTECT OUR WATERS**

www.miseagrant.umich.edu/cbcw



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

DON'T PICK UP HITCHHIKERS: Prior to moving your watercraft to other bodies of water, ensure that the boat's hull, propeller and trailer are completely free of water and plants that could easily be transported to other area waterways that you may visit. Dispose of unused bait into the trash. Never dump it into the water.

WATERSHEDS WITHIN OAKLAND COUNTY



We all live in a watershed—an area of land that drains to a common body of water, such as a lake, river or stream. Oakland County is home to the headwaters of five major watersheds and contains more than 1,400 lakes.

When it rains or the snow melts, this storm water runoff moves over the land and picks up any contaminants in its path. This runoff then travels to the nearest waterway without treatment. This is called non-point source pollution.

We can all be part of the solution to water pollution by practicing Healthy Habits for Clean Water at home.



TRY THESE OTHER HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEAN WATER:

- #1: Minimize Storm Water Runoff from Your Property
- #2: Prevent Soil Erosion and Sedimentation
- #3: Maintain a Healthy Lawn and Garden
- #4: Plant and Maintain a Naturalized Shoreline or Streambank Buffer
- #5: Properly Manage Home, Yard and Animal Waste
- #6: Properly Maintain Your Septic System
- #7: Properly Maintain Your Boats and Other Recreational Vehicles

To learn how, visit www.oakgov.com/riparian, or call the WRC Environmental Team at 248-858-0958 for more information.

This publication has been provided to you by:



John P. McCulloch

Oakland County's 24-Hour Pollution Hotline: 248-858-0931

Call if you witness contamination in lakes, rivers or streams, discharges from pipes, sewage on the ground or in surface water, or a large number of dead fish in waterways.

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