



Our playground...
their world

Working together | Making a difference
Tips for boaters on protecting our marine environment

New Zealand's

clean boating
programme

Contents



Your boating habits can
make a difference

By adopting the simple clean boating habits outlined in this booklet, you can help protect our oceans for future generations to enjoy as you do today. Together we can make a difference.

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Introduction



Welcome to New Zealand's Clean Boating Programme

New Zealand has one of the highest levels of recreational boating activity in the world. At over 15,000 kilometres, we have the tenth-longest coastline in the world to enjoy. Boating continues to increase in popularity, making it vital that boaties understand the potential impact they can have on our unique marine environment, and are environmentally friendly in the way they operate and maintain their vessels.

Pollutants can enter the ocean from a wide range of sources, including chemical, oil, fuel, and sewage discharges from recreational boats. As well, dirty boat hulls have the potential to carry and spread often harmful marine pest species.

In New Zealand, local authorities such as regional, district and city councils already regulate pollution discharges from industry and sewage through the Resource Management Act. It is timely to recognise the impacts of other pollution sources such as agricultural runoff, failing septic tank systems, commercial shipping, and recreational boating, all of which can significantly contribute to the contamination of our inland and coastal waterways.

The Clean Boating Programme is part of an international environmental initiative, whereby many marine-related businesses and recreational boaties are participating in programmes to improve their environmental performance. The Clean Boating component provides individual boaties with educational materials to help them play their part.

As a boat owner or operator, you want to enjoy healthy, safe and pristine waters. This booklet has been designed to give you some simple tips to ensure your boating is clean and our seas remain alive and healthy. For more comprehensive information, fact sheets and links to other useful material, visit:

www.cleanboating.org.nz

Stop the spread of marine pests

New Zealand's sea life and marine environment are under threat from introduced marine pests. These animals and plants are generally a harmless part of the landscape in their home location, but once introduced to New Zealand waters, can spread quickly and are often difficult and expensive to control. In a new environment, some marine organisms can cause irreversible damage and they often hitchhike from location to location on dirty boat hulls.



Three pest sea squirt species present in New Zealand waters

Marine pests can affect the things you value...

Your boat

- damaging the paint and hull where they attach
- increasing drag and fuel costs
- clogging water-cooling inlets, motors and propellers, and causing engine overheating

Your fishing

- putting pressure on native fish and shellfish populations by competing for food, preying on them and damaging habitats
- prompting movement controls or fishing/boating bans to control spread
- impacting on marine farming and commercial fishing

Your enjoyment of our coast

- damaging the coastal environment
- setting up unsightly populations in the areas you love
- harming our unique marine biodiversity

While you're out there, if you find a marine animal or plant that looks out of the ordinary to you, note its location, grab a sample if you can and call MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on its freephone:

0800 80 99 66



Keep hitchhiking pests off your boat...

You can help protect New Zealand's waters from the impacts of marine pests.

For more information
visit:
www.livingseas.co.nz
and
www.biosecurity.govt.nz

Regularly clean your boat hull...

- Haul out and remove all large fouling matter such as weed, mussels etc by hand. Don't let this material get back into the sea where it could reproduce. Dispose of in a bin going to landfill.
- Hose and brush or waterblast to remove all other fouling. Haul your boat out at a facility where the wash off is contained and treated before going back into the sea.
- Pay special attention to what are known as "niche areas" – appendages that protrude or areas that retain water such as the keel, intakes and outlets, propellers and shafts, rudders and casings. These are prime locations for harbouring pests.
- Do this at least annually, and any time there is a build-up of fouling. Don't let fouling build up beyond a light slime layer.

Antifoul your hull...

- Renew paint at the interval recommended by the manufacturer or retailer, if the paint has been scraped or damaged, or if persistent fouling is occurring. Paints generally last between one and two years, depending on the number and thickness of coats applied.
- Apply paint to a clean and dry hull. Prime first if the hull surface is exposed.

- Apply a good thorough coating – and don't miss those niche areas outlined opposite.
- Antifouling works best with more than one coat applied. Allow each coat to dry between applications and allow final coat to cure for 24 hours before re-launching.

Additional steps...

- Check your boat is clean before you move location. If not, clean it.
- Regularly treat internal seawater systems – flush with freshwater or an approved treatment.
- For trailer boats, jetskis, canoes, anchors, dive gear and fishing gear – wash with freshwater after use and allow to thoroughly air dry before using in a new location. Remove any debris or by-catch material as you clean, rather than throwing over the side when you get to a new location.

Protect offshore islands from pest animals...

- If you are sailing to offshore islands, check your boat for uninvited passengers such as possums, weasels, stoats, ferrets, rabbits or rodents. These animals can harm island environments and native wildlife.

Everyone has a role to play.
Keep your bottom clean!



Waste management



The ocean is not a dump!

A treaty known as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (known as MARPOL) was enacted in 1973 and updated in 1978 to protect the ocean environment. As of November 2009, 150 countries, including New Zealand, have signed this treaty which specifically prohibits the dumping of any plastics into the ocean or navigable waters. MARPOL also restricts discharge of a range of other harmful substances, including oils and chemicals.

Controlling solid waste

Rubbish, such as plastics, not only ruins the natural beauty of our waterways and shorelines, it can also tangle boat props, clog intakes, and injure or kill marine life. Plastic debris can persist in the oceans for hundreds of years. Solid waste such as bottles, cans, fishing lines, plastic bags and other refuse can injure or kill aquatic life and birds by starvation, suffocation, or poisoning. Some types of debris, such as discarded nets, fishing tackle, and plastics also cause death by entanglement. Store your rubbish and bring it ashore for proper disposal.



Reduce Reuse Recycle

Tips and solutions

- Have a waste container on your boat. The best policy is to bring back what you took out.
- Think about going one step further and bring back rubbish less thoughtful people may have left behind.
- Use recyclable containers and reusable bags. Avoid taking plastic wrap and bags while out on your boat – these are the most common items lost overboard.
- Don't toss rubbish, including cigarette butts, overboard.
- If rubbish blows overboard, make an effort to retrieve it.
- Recycle oil, batteries, plastic, metal, glass and newspaper.
- Recycle fishing line or dispose of it properly. Some marinas and sporting goods stores offer fishing line recycling.
- Use the marina recycling facility or take rubbish home to your household recycling bin.
- Properly dispose of unwanted waste chemicals by using the household hazardous waste collection facilities in your community.
- If you boat with a dog, clean up after it and leave waste in an appropriate receptacle.

Fish waste

The disposal of fish waste material in inshore waters may harm marine ecology and the wider marine environment. Dumping of large amounts of fish waste in small and/or shallow areas with poor water exchange has been known to cause oxygen depletion and smothering. This can be a problem in marinas with poor flushing. "Fish feeding" with bait or cleaned fish similarly loads basins with nutrients and can also disrupt the feeding behaviour of wild animals and spread diseases among them.

Dispose of unwanted bait well offshore. Gut fish and dispose of waste well offshore or consider land disposal.

Disposal methods could include:

- Burying fish waste in the garden.
- Using local rubbish facilities but first double bag waste.
- Consider alternative use of the fish waste, such as grinding it up and freezing as burley.
- Take particular care to properly dispose of fishing lines. Fishing lines in the water can entangle fish, wildlife, swimmers, and boat propellers.
- Composting the fish waste at home. This is a relatively new, practical and environmentally-sound means of disposing of fish waste. It is economical, fairly odourless and a biologically beneficial practice for seafood operations. A commitment to proper management of the compost bin is the key to successful composting.

For more information
visit:
www.fish.govt.nz



Note: Rules regarding size and limit of catches must be adhered to. Where fish species have minimum legal length limits, these fish may be gutted but must be landed whole.

**You,
as a boatie,
can be an active
steward of our
marine environment
by implementing
these
basic practices.**

Sewage management

See
www.cleanboating.org.nz
for a list of
pump out facilities.

Untreated sewage can seriously degrade water quality. When sewage is dumped into our bays or harbours, there is a potential for disease-causing pathogens to enter the water. These pathogens pose a serious health risk to swimmers, anglers, and other people coming into direct contact with the water. Not only is there a risk to humans, there is a risk to fish and other aquatic life. As sewage breaks down in the aquatic environment, the bacteria that feed upon the sewage consume large amounts of oxygen from the water column. This in turn reduces the amount of oxygen available for fish. Shellfish (like mussels, oysters, pipi, cockles and others) are filter feeders that concentrate viruses and other nasties in the water, making them unsafe to eat for a number of weeks after exposure to sewage.

Preventative measures and considerations...

- Before heading out on the water for the day, use the onshore toilets.
- Plan ahead where to discharge safely.
- A fitted holding tank ensures onboard toilet facilities can be used in all locations, with waste pumped ashore or discharged when well offshore. Portable toilets can be purchased for as little as \$200 and discharged onshore.

- Use pump out facilities where provided – visit www.cleanboating.org.nz for a list of New Zealand's pump out facilities.

Managing your sewage safely...

- Please don't discharge boat sewage in enclosed waters, close to shore, in shallow waters, near other boats, swimmers or other marine users or near marine farms, mātaimai, taiapure and marine reserves.



As a general rule, to discharge untreated sewage you must be more than:

- 500 metres from shore and in water over 5 metres deep.
- 500 metres from a marine farm.
- 500 metres from a customary fishing reserve (mātaimai).
- 200 metres from a marine reserve.

Know the rules – before you go out, contact the local regional council and know where it's illegal to discharge untreated sewage (areas differ between regions). Check with regional councils for both local and intended destination restrictions. Further information is available at:

www.cleanboating.org.nz



**Pump it-
don't dump it!**

Refuelling your boat

Report any spills immediately to the fuel station operator, marina operator and local regional council. The sooner a spill is reported, the better chance there is of minimising damage to the environment.

Each year hundreds of diesel and oil spills pollute our harbours and coastline. Because most of these spills are of very light oil, they quickly spread out into a thin film. This oily film is toxic, smells bad, fouls other boats, and contaminates shellfish and marine farms. Most oil and fuel spills can be attributed to careless refuelling or pumping oily bilge water overboard. We all have a role to play in keeping our coastal water pollution free. Please report any pollution, fuel or oil spills to your local regional council pollution hotline.

Tips and solutions

- Whenever possible, refuel, using a fuel pump, at an approved refuelling station where spill kits are available.
- Avoid transferring fuel to your boat in containers. If you must use a container, make sure you use a large funnel. Fill carefully to avoid spillage into the water.
- For safety, have all passengers disembark the vessel during petroleum refuelling.
- Before you start refuelling, estimate how much fuel you need in your tanks to prevent overflow.
- Lay some absorbent material around the tank inlet in case of splashes and overflows.
- Plug the scuppers with rags during refuelling where possible.
- Keep absorbent materials on deck to mop up any spills. Special absorbent material can be bought from boat chandlers and marine suppliers.
- Make sure a responsible adult monitors the entire refuelling process. Don't let children or untrained people refuel your boat.
- Never leave the fuel hose unattended while refuelling.
- Fit a vent whistle and listen to the tone while refuelling.
- When fuelling, avoid topping off or overfilling to reduce the risk of fuel overflowing from vents. Allow room for expansion in the tank.
- If you do overfill your fuel tank, wipe it up with an absorbent rag. Do not hose the fuel off into the water.
- Dispose of the contaminated rags responsibly. Any oil or used absorbent material should be disposed of by a specialist waste management company or at the waste oil reception facility at your marina.

Older two stroke engines are not efficient and can discharge up to a third of their fuel/oil mixture unused into the sea through the exhaust. If you own one of these, consider upgrading to a low emission four-stroke or direct injection two-stroke alternative.

THE SCARY FACTS...

- **A single litre of fuel can contaminate over a million litres of water.**
- **One litre of used oil can form a 4000 m² slick.**
- **Oil is toxic to fish and water species. Prolonged exposure affects reproduction, growth and feeding of aquatic life, even at low concentrations.**
- **The majority of oil pollution in our waterways comes from everyday sources like refuelling, engine emissions and oil leaks.**

Bilge water

Bilges can be a major source of pollution in marinas and harbours. They tend to collect pollutants such as engine oil, fuel, antifreeze, and transmission fluid. They may also contain other toxic elements and metals. When bilge pumps are activated manually or automatically, these pollutants are pumped into the water. Over time, they settle to the seabed and accumulate in the sediment. Aquatic organisms that feed along the bottom may take in these pollutants and transmit them up the food chain to be ultimately consumed by a variety of wildlife or humans.

Preventative solutions

- Ensure your engine is properly maintained, that it does not leak oil or fuel, and that the bilge is kept clean.
- Don't undertake oil changes and then allow the waste oil to empty into your bilge.
- Change your oil using non-spill vacuum type systems.
- Stop water leaking into the boat, so you do not need to pump out so often.
- Use bilge socks or absorbent pads, where available, to collect floating oil and fuel in the bilge.
- Replace these pads when they are heavily saturated or soiled.
- In the absence of bilge socks, soak up any floating oil with absorbent material (newspaper, rags or paper towels in an emergency) before turning on the bilge pump.
- Keep a piece of absorbent material under your engine.
- **Never** mix detergent with oily bilge water; this mixture can be even more toxic than oil alone, and is very difficult to clean.
- If you have an automatic bilge pump, ensure there is no floating oil in the bilges. A range of bilge water filters are available for most boats that will remove the majority of contaminants.
- Avoid discharging bilge water that has an oily sheen.
- As well as the pollution risk, oil and fuel sloshing around in your bilge increases the risk of fire or explosion, and can be toxic to occupants within the cabin.



Environmentally friendly solutions...

- Do not use bilge cleaners when discharging bilge water to the sea. These cleaners simply disperse the oil and do not remove it from the bilge water.
- Slip a plastic bag over the used filters before removing them to catch drips.
- Look for contractors or marinas that offer a bilge pump out service.

Handle spills appropriately...

- Stop the flow and contain the spill.
- If you have a minor spill, clean it up with a rag or absorbent material.
- If there is an oil or fuel spill in the water, do not use detergent to disperse it. Immediately notify the marina office so that the spill can be handled in an appropriate manner.
- Notify the marina operator, local Coastguard or the regional council pollution hotline.

Grey water

Grey water is the soapy water from boat galley sinks and showers and the term is also used to describe the dirty rinse water created when washing a boat.

Grey water is often rich in phosphates, which pollute the water and encourage the growth of unwanted algae.

While the bleaches, detergents, and soaps used on board may be the same as those you use at home, some boat cleaning products are even more caustic or corrosive than household cleaners. Liquid soaps and deck cleaners can contain a variety of toxins, including chlorine, inorganic salts, and metals.

As well, many boat cleaning and maintenance products contain chemicals that are poisonous, corrosive, flammable and/or chemically reactive.

The environmental impact of boat-generated grey water is worse than that of home-generated shower, laundry, and dishwasher for one simple reason. Household greywater is diverted to local sewage treatment facilities before being disposed of (unless you have a septic tank or other onsite treatment and disposal system).

Boat-generated grey water is not! Most boats do not have the technology required for containing grey water prior to its discharge.



Take action to minimise the impact of greywater from your boat...

- Use shore-side facilities whenever possible. If you're just out for a day trip, bring home any dirty dishes and shower at home to minimise the amount of greywater generated.
- Less is more – when washing the above-water areas of your boat, use less cleaning product and more elbow grease. A quick freshwater rinse and scrub after each trip minimizes the need for harsh cleaners.
- Use only phosphate-free and biodegradable soaps - check the shelves of your local supermarket or marine supply store for alternative soaps. These products are no longer hard to find. Also see "Alternatives to traditional cleaning products" near the end of this booklet.
- Read the label when buying boat cleaning products. Signal words such as "danger/poison" or "caution" should give you an indication of the toxicity of a product. If you want more information on a product's contents, ask your retailer or contact the manufacturer for the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The MSDS will list any ingredients considered to be hazardous substances.

Tidal grids



Many regional councils, boat clubs and marinas still provide tidal grids for casual hire. Some users may need to review the way they use them in future.

Tidal grids provide a traditional way of careening a vessel to perform maintenance. Grid structures comprise a row of piles for vessels to tie up to so they are kept upright as the tide ebbs, leaving the boat hull exposed.

Some have a concrete base or floor; others have sleepers or rails to keep the base of the keel above the seabed. Historically, grids were used for quite comprehensive maintenance such as waterblasting, scraping down and even repainting antifouling.

But times are changing. Newer yacht designs have fin keel hull shapes that are more challenging to careen. As well, alternatives to grids have become more readily available as boat yards have been built, even in remote areas, in response to a rise in boating popularity. These yards provide full professional services such as travel lifts with slings and wash and repaint work through to hard stands for those who want to do DIY maintenance.

Most importantly, there is a growing understanding that using grids for more than the most simple maintenance (such as changing anodes and checking fittings) can pose environmental and biosecurity risks.

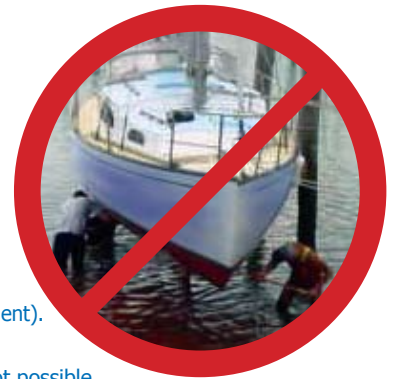
Using grids for water blasting or scraping hulls can, for example, expose the coastal environment to pollution and biosecurity risks from the discharge of contaminants (from antifouling scrapings and wash off) and the release of potential pest organisms growing on the hull. In comparison with a well-designed boat yard, it is generally not practical to contain these contaminants and pests at tidal grids.

Recommended best practice for grid use

- Wiping or soft brushing/scrubbing of light slime coating on hull.
- Inspection and/or minor maintenance of underwater appendages – propeller/shaft/gland area, rudder stock/bearings, through hull fittings or valves, speed logs or transducers, zinc anode replacement etc.
- If you find larger fouling growth than a light slime layer, refloat vessel and move to full haulout in a yard.
- Remove all waste and rubbish from the site and dispose of in appropriate manner – i.e. bins going to landfill, recycling or hazardous waste collection.

Inappropriate grid use

- Waterblasting hull and fittings (as contaminated run-off cannot be contained).
- Scraping down old paint and marine growth (as above, plus risk of marine species being released into environment).
- Work that creates a dust nuisance, or visible plumes or foams/scums/slicks in water.
- Antifouling application – note best practice for antifouling paint is to allow 24 hours drying time – clearly not possible between tides. Inadequately dried paint will only wash off into water.
- Touching up of antifouling – some regional councils may permit this activity on grids but this publication documents environmental best practice so this is not recommended here. Note point above re curing times for antifouling paint.



Report any inappropriate use of tidal grids to your local regional council pollution hotline.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) prohibits unlawful discharge to the coastal marine area. Activities such as waterblasting, sanding or scraping could breach RMA requirements and regional councils can issue infringement notices (instant fines) for such breaches. We all have a role to play in keeping our coastal water clean and pest free. Please report any inappropriate use of tidal grids to your local regional council pollution hotline.

Full information on local grid requirements and also the mechanics of using tidal grids is available at: www.cleanboating.org.nz

Storm event preparations

Know what to expect...

Severe storms can pose an environmental hazard as damage to boats can result in spills of fuel, oils and other chemicals. The key to protecting your boat from threatening severe weather is planning, preparation and timely action.

Most boaties will realise that on receiving a severe weather warning, they should immediately take precautionary measures to see that the boat is properly secured. You need a plan unique to your type of boat, the local boating environment, the likely severe weather conditions and the characteristics of safe havens and/or plans for protection.



Preparing a boat for bad weather means defending against wind, rain, waves and high water.

Surge...

Surge can account for much damage because it puts docks and pontoons out of sequence and sometimes underwater as boats try to float above.

Wind...

When wind speed doubles, wind pressure quadruples. When expecting high winds, you will need to reduce windage (the surface area your boat presents to the wind). See the following page for tips on reducing windage.

Waves...

Severe storms can produce steep, breaking waves that pound normally peaceful harbours.

Rainfall...

Cockpit decks are seldom 100 percent watertight, and the ability of a bilge pump and battery to handle rain accumulation is greatly overestimated. Deck drains and pump discharges located near the water line can back-flow when waves and rain put drains underwater.

Critical points

If your boat causes damage during a natural disaster, you, as the boat owner/operator may be held responsible.



Mooring lines and chafe gear

Regularly inspect and check your vessel's mooring lines. Chafe protectors are essential on all mooring lines as winds and high water can work them against contact points. On moorings or at anchor, lines stretched over the rail can create sufficient internal heat to melt them. Covering lines with hose or duct tape at the fairleads greatly increases the degree of protection. Consider doubling up mooring lines, leaving sufficient slack in the additional lines to only become "live" should the first line chafe through during the storm event.

Cleats and fairleads

Check your cleats to make sure they are backed properly with stainless steel or aluminium plates. Marine plywood is acceptable if it's free of rot and delamination. Securely backed winches on sailboats and even keel-stepped masts also can be used to secure lines at a dock.

Reduce windage

Remove as much rigging, canvas and deck gear as possible, and point the bow toward the greatest anticipated exposure...

- Strip all loose gear: canvas covers, bimini tops, outriggers, antennas, anchors, running rigging, booms, life rings, dinghies, portable davits, etc.
- Lash down anything on deck that can't be taken off.
- Remove sails – especially roller-furling headsails, which create substantial windage, particularly when they come unfurled.
- All halyards should be run to the masthead and secured with a single line to the rails to minimize windage and flogging damage to the mast. The line can be used to retrieve the halyards later.

Alternatives to traditional cleaning products

You can minimise environmental impacts by using the following simple household alternatives to harmful products.

General cleaner

Mix baking soda and vinegar or combine lemon juice with borax paste.

Surface cleaner

Mix approx 1 litre of hot water, 1 tsp vegetable-oil-based soap/detergent, 1 tsp borax and 2 tbsp vinegar. Vinegar is used as a mild acid to cut grease, borax is used as a water softener, and is especially good with hard water to prevent soapy deposits.

Mix 1 cup of vinegar in approx 1 litre of warm water.

Dissolve baking soda in hot water for a general cleaner.

Degreaser

Make a paste of lemon juice and borax. When shopping for degreasing products, look for water-based products or citrus-based degreasers.

Avoid products that contain methylene chloride (known to cause cancer in laboratory animals).

Do not use fuel to clean marine parts. Petroleum contains benzene (carcinogenic to humans) that, upon evaporation, causes air pollution.

Window cleaner

Use vegetable-oil-based soaps/detergents.

Dish cleaner

Dilute 1 cup of white vinegar with approx 1 litre of water.

Floor cleaner

To clean vinyl tile and linoleum, use 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/4 cup of washing soda, in 3.7 litres of warm water, or one cup vinegar in 7.5 litres of water. Remove scuff marks on linoleum with toothpaste.

Fiberglass cleaner

Use a paste of baking soda and water.

Aluminum cleaner

Mix 1 tbsp cream of tartar in approx 1 litre of hot water.

Brass cleaner

Use Worcestershire sauce, or paste made of equal amounts of salt, vinegar and water.

Copper cleaner

Use lemon juice and water, or paste made of equal amounts of lemon juice, salt and flour.

Chrome polish

Use apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish.

Hand cleaner

Apply baby oil or margarine, then clean with soap and water.

Shower head, toilet and shower

Clean frequently with a mix of baking soda and water; brush thoroughly. Sprinkle baking soda around the rim of the toilet or, to clean and deodorize the shower head, try a mix of 1/2 cup of borax per approx 3.7 litres of water.

Stainless steel

Mix baking soda and mineral oil for polishing and vinegar to remove spots.

Scouring powders

Instead of scouring powder, try using baking soda.

Teak cleaner

Use a biodegradable soap to remove the dirt and salt water. Instead of bleaching teak, try using a mild soap and scrub with bronze wool.

Paints

Avoid paints containing methylene chloride and trichloroethylene (TCE) (known to cause cancer in laboratory animals); benzene (also known to cause cancer in humans); 1,1,1- trichloroethane (TCA) (irritant to eyes and tissues), xylene (toxic by drinking and breathing); or toluene (known to cause birth defects).

Wood stainers

Do not use old products that contain pentachlorophenol (PCP) (evidence that it causes cancer in laboratory animals), creosote, tributyltin oxide, or folpet. Water-based preservatives are available that can seal wood and protect it from water rot. Use water-based stains. Use finishes derived from natural sources, such as, shellac, tung oil, and linseed oil.

Fiberglass stain remover

Use a paste of baking soda and water.

Wood polish

Use olive, walnut, or almond oil.

Mildew removers

Scrub mildew with borax/water using a nylon scouring pad. Try scrubbing mildew with a vinegar and salt paste (equal parts), if the problem is not severe. Try vinegar full strength, then rinse. To inhibit mould and mildew, wash area with 1/2 cup borax to approx 3.7 litres hot water.

Blocked drain

Dissemble or use plumber's snake. Or flush with a mixture of boiling water, 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1/4 cup of vinegar.

Rug/upholstery cleaner

Sprinkle on dry corn starch and vacuum off.

Please note

These alternatives have not been clinically tested. They are offered as suggestions. While baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, and vegetable oils are far less harmful than bleaches, scouring powders and detergents, they can still be toxic to aquatic life. Use all cleaning products sparingly and minimize the amount discharged into the water. Never dispose of any cleaning products down the thru-hull drain; dispose of them on the shore.

Marine reserves

Marine reserves are specified areas of the sea and foreshore that are managed to preserve them in their natural state as the habitat of marine life for scientific study.



Photos: Kim Westerskov

They are established in areas that contain underwater scenery, natural features, or marine life of such distinctive quality, or so typical, beautiful or unique that their continued preservation is in the national interest.

There are over 30 marine reserves established in New Zealand waters. All are administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), but over half of them were created through application lodged by interest groups including tangata whenua, conservation groups, fishers, divers and marine science interest groups. Collectively, these reserves protect around seven percent of New Zealand's territorial sea. However, 99 percent of this is in two large marine reserves around isolated offshore island groups (the Auckland Islands and the Kermadecs).

Within a marine reserve, all marine life is protected and fishing and the removal or disturbance of any living or non-living marine resource is prohibited, except as necessary for permitted monitoring or research. This includes dredging, dumping or discharging any matter or waste whatsoever. You are, however, welcome and encouraged to enjoy marine reserves. In all marine reserves you may dive, snorkel, take photos, swim, kayak, anchor (with care) and navigate through these areas.

Marine reserve boundaries are shown on marine charts (make sure you have the most recent charts) and published in tide tables publications. Maps can be downloaded from the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz). Signs showing reserve boundaries are located at local marinas, boat ramps and jetties, and many are marked with yellow triangle land markers and buoys at sea. For full information on marine reserves, where they are and the rules applying to them, check with your local DOC office or check out the marine reserves information on their website (www.doc.govt.nz/marinereserves).

These activities are prohibited or restricted in marine reserves to protect sea life...

- Fishing of any kind.
- Taking or disturbing any marine life, including shellfish and seaweeds.
- Taking any part of the seafloor, including rocks and shells, or erection of any structure.
- Feeding the fish, as this disturbs their natural behaviour.
- Littering, sewage disposal and polluting – please take your rubbish with you when you leave.

Visit the Clean Boating Programme at www.cleanboating.org.nz

Here you will find more information and detailed fact sheets on topics relevant to boaties and the environment.

Visit links direct from the homepage to our partner organisations, Clean Marinas Programme and other relevant websites!

Show your support for protecting our marine environment.



Welcome to the New Zealand Clean Boating Programme



New Zealand has one of the highest levels of recreational boating activities in the world. We have over 15,000km of coastline making New Zealand the 10th longest coastline of all countries in the world. As boating continues to increase in popularity, it becomes increasingly important to educate boaters about environmentally sound boating practices and to motivate changes in behavior that help reduce pollution from boat operation and maintenance.

As a recreational user of our waterways you want to enjoy safe and healthy waters. This website has been designed to give you some simple tips for boating clean and green in New Zealand.

Your boating habits can make a difference!

By implementing simple clean boating habits outlined in these links you can help protect our waterways for future generations to enjoy as you do today



New Zealand's



clean boating

programme

www.cleanboating.org.nz

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