

# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO BOAT & AUTO CAR

How we take care of our boats, personal watercrafts, mobile homes, cars and other vehicles greatly influences the health of the area lakes, rivers and streams. You can do your part to prevent pollution at the source by checking up on your marina and following a few simple tips.

## Car washing & boat cleaning



- Look for non-toxic and phosphate-free cleansers.
- Use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda and lemon juice. Avoid those with bleach, ammonia, lye or petroleum distillates (see chart).

<i>Product</i>	<i>Better Alternative</i>
Bleach	Borax or hydrogen peroxide
Chrome cleaner	Apple cider vinegar to clean, baby oil to polish
Drain cleaner	Boiling water and plunger or plumber's snake
Engine cleaner	Steam clean the engine in a dedicated service area.
Fiberglass stain remover	Baking soda paste, scrub pad, "elbow grease"
Paint stripper	Physically remove old paint without chemical use. Avoid products containing methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, benzene, trichloroethane, xylene or toluene.
Scouring powders	Baking soda and "elbow grease"
Window cleaner	Vinegar and lemon juice mixed in lukewarm water
Wood polish	Olive oil or almond oil for interior wood; use water- or borax-based products.

References: Marine Environmental Education Foundation's National Clean Boating Campaign 2000 Action Kit and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's "Tips to Protect the Environment"

## Fuel and oil



- When fueling, avoid topping off! Remember that fuel expands as it warms up in your tank.
- Store fuel only in approved containers.
- Routinely check for and fix oil and fuel leaks.

## Engine care

- Keep boat and car engines properly tuned for efficient fuel consumption and clean exhaust.
- Use a drip pan when doing engine maintenance. Drippings left on the cement get washed into nearby drains and end up in our streams.



## Sewage control

- Use onshore restrooms when docked, and encourage everyone to use the facilities before casting off.
- Empty portable toilets *only* at pumpout stations or at home.
- Clean up after your pet to prevent pet waste from washing into storm drains.

Many marinas statewide have pumpouts and allow non-members to use them. Keep sewage out of storm drains and lakes!

For more information, visit our website: [GalesburgCity.org](http://GalesburgCity.org)



Don't let a good drop go bad!