

United States vessels of 26 feet or longer must display in a prominent location, a durable placard at least 4 by 9 inches notifying the crew and passengers of the discharge restrictions.

United States oceangoing vessels of 40 feet or longer, which are engaged in commerce or are equipped with a galley and berthing must have a written Waste Management Plan describing the procedures for collecting, processing, storing, and discharging garbage; and designate the person who is in charge of carrying out the plan.

Marine Sanitation Devices

All recreational boats with installed toilet facilities must have an operable marine sanitation device (MSD) on board. Vessels 65 feet and under may use a Type I, II, or III MSD depending on when the MSD was installed. Vessels over 65 feet must install a Type II or III MSD. All installed MSDs must be Coast Guard certified. Coast Guard certified devices are so labeled except for some holding tanks, which are certified by definition under the regulations.

Oil or Chemical Spill Notification

call the National Response Center at
800-424-8802

Oil Spill Response

in the Region IV Coastal Zone, contact the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO):

MSO Wilmington, NC 910-792-8408	MSO Charleston, SC 843-724-7616
MSO Savannah, GA 912-652-4353	MSO Jacksonville, FL 904-247-7310
MSO Miami, FL 305-732-0160	MSO Tampa, FL 813-228-2189
MSO Mobile, AL 334-441-5121	

In the Region IV Inland Zone, contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
404-562-8700

Inland Zone U.S. Coast Guard Offices are:

MSO Huntington, WV 800-253-7465	MSO Louisville, KY 800-253-7465
MSO Paducah, KY 502-442-1621	MSO Memphis, TN 901-544-3912

State Pollution Response Contacts are:

North Carolina 919-733-3867	South Carolina Spill: 888-481-0125 Office: 803-896-4000
Georgia 404-656-4300	Florida 850-413-9911
Alabama 334-242-4378	Mississippi 601-352-9100
Tennessee 800-258-3300	Kentucky 800-928-2380

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Oil Spills And Pollution From Recreational Vessels



Pollution Regulations

The Refuse Act of 1899 prohibits throwing, discharging, or depositing any refuse matter of any kind (including trash, garbage, oil, and other liquid pollutants) into waters of the United States.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA), also known as the Clean Water Act (CWA) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) prohibits the discharge of oil or hazardous substances which may be harmful into U.S. navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, or into or upon the waters of the Contiguous Zone, or the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Vessels 26 feet in length and over must display a placard at least 5 by 8 inches, made of durable material, fixed in a conspicuous place in machinery spaces, or at the bilge pump control station, stating the following:

Discharge Of Oil Prohibited

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibits the discharge of oil or oily waste into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or the waters of the contiguous zone if such discharge causes a film or sheen upon, or discoloration of, the surface of the water, or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water. Violators are subject to a penalty of \$10,000

Management of Oil Wastes

Regulations issued under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act/Clean Water Act require all vessels with propulsion machinery to have a capacity to retain oily mixtures on board. A fixed or portable means to discharge oily waste to a reception facility is required. A bucket or bailer is suitable as a portable means of discharging oily waste on

recreational vessels. No person may intentionally drain oil or oily waste from any source into the bilge of any vessel.



water. Call toll-free 800-424-8802. At a minimum, report the following information:

- Name and contact information;
- Location;
- Source;
- Size;
- Color;
- Substances; and
- Time observed.

Garbage Pollution Prohibitions

The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex V) places limitations on the discharge of garbage from vessels. It is illegal to dump plastic trash anywhere in the ocean or navigable waters of the United States. It is also illegal to discharge garbage in the navigable waters of the United States, including the Great Lakes. The discharge of other types of garbage is permitted outside of specific distances offshore as determined by the nature of that garbage except in "Special Areas" designated by regulation. The following chart illustrates the general restrictions.

Garbage Type	Discharge
Plastics- includes synthetic ropes, fishing nets, and plastic bags	Prohibited in all areas
Floating dunnage, lining and packing materials	Prohibited less than 25 miles from nearest land
Food waste, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery, and similar refuse	Prohibited less than 12 miles from nearest land
Comminuted or ground food waste, paper, rags, glass, etc.	Prohibited less than 3 miles from nearest land

Acceptable Discharges

The only oil or oil residue acceptable in a vessel's bilge is the residue of a properly functioning and maintained engine and other associated machinery. This oil or oil residue must be contained within the bilge and properly disposed of at a waste reception facility.

Oil sheening will occur during the operation of an outboard engine. This is acceptable on the waters previously specified, except on waters prohibiting the use of outboard engines. The outboard engine should be properly functioning and maintained to minimize the resultant sheen.

Notifications of Oil or Hazardous Substance Discharges

You must immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) if your vessel discharges oil or a hazardous substance in the