

"takemefishing"

Prevent Water Pollution

Anyone who has been to the beach knows that there is a lot of garbage floating around in our coastal waters and floating up on shore. Most of this garbage is making it's way down to the water's edge through street gutters and storm drains that drain directly into local creeks. However, a small percentage may still be originating from vessels.

Why Should I Care?

Garbage in the water looks bad, and can cause problems for both wildlife that mistake it for food and eat it, and for boaters. A significant number of

boaters have had cool-water intake valves clogged by plastic bags, causing engine overheating and expensive repairs. Others have had monofilament fishing line wrapped around their propeller, and others have seen enough trash in the water to be able to use it to follow the direction of the current flows!

***Boating Rule to Remember:
If you wouldn't swim in it, don't put it in
the water!***

The Law

Under U.S. law, it is illegal to put **any** garbage into the water from a vessel that is on a lake, river, stream, or any coastal waters up to 3 miles offshore.

In the Great Lakes, this no-garbage law applies everywhere. As you venture further offshore, the law loosens a bit. The biggest thing to remember is that no matter where you are, NO plastic garbage should ever go into the water.

If you have a boat 26' or over, you need to have a "MARPOL" placard prominently posted to remind your crew of those dumping restrictions. You can purchase this placard from most marine supply stores.

Order Trash Discharge Sticker from BoatUS.

Under the same law, marinas are required to have adequate trash receiving capability for their normal customers. (The Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1997 is Title II of Public Law 100-200.)

What Can I Do?

- Establish a policy on your boat that nothing goes overboard - even apple cores. Alert all guests and crew to this policy.
- Make sure your garbage can is easily accessible on the boat, and on open boats, make sure it has a lid to keep light plastics from catching wind and flying away.
- Post the bilingual "Stash Your Trash" poster at a waterfront business or boat facility.
- Distribute our brochure about the law to your local boating group.

E-mail BoatU.S. to receive copies of the poster. **Order the "Stash Your Trash" brochure.**

Save Our Seas

The discharge of all garbage into the ocean or navigable waters of the United States is prohibited under MARPOL 73/78. A person who knowingly violates MARPOL 73/78 commits a Class D felony punishable by imprisonment up to six years and a fine up to \$250,000 for an individual, or up to \$500,000 for an organization.



We support the law. Please
do your part while on board.
—YOUR CAPTAIN

Item: 713021

Distance from Shore	Illegal to Dump	Prohibited Items
LAKES, RIVERS, BAYS, SOUNDS, and 0-3 MILES FROM SHORE	ILLEGAL TO DUMP	Plastic Rags Glass Food Metal Crockery Dunnage Lining & Packing Materials That Float
3-12 MILES	ILLEGAL TO DUMP	Plastic Rags Glass Food* Metal* Crockery* Dunnage Lining & Packing Materials That Float
12-25 MILES	ILLEGAL TO DUMP	Plastic Dunnage Lining & Packing Materials That Float
25 MILES OR MORE	ILLEGAL TO DUMP	Plastic *unless ground smaller than one inch

PLACARDS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW for any boat 26 feet or more in length.

Did you know?....sea turtles love to eat jellyfish. In their search for the clear colored, pulsing delicacy, they often eat clear plastic ice bags instead.

<http://www.TakeMeFishing.org/Page.cfm?PageID=100>