



# Clean Boater Tip Sheet



## Sanding and Painting

Sanding and painting can create environmental hazards if not conducted in a controlled area. Many anti-fouling paints are made with toxic chemicals designed to leach out and prevent bottom growth on the hull. When concentrated amounts of these materials are allowed to escape from hull maintenance and repair areas, there is a potential for environmental harm. Materials, such as solvents, thinners, and brush cleaners, often used in sanding and painting, can also harm the environment if improperly handled. These materials contain cancer-causing agents and have a tendency to sink in the water column, compromising water quality and damaging aquatic life and the aquatic environment.

You can play an important role in protecting water quality while sanding or painting your vessel by following simple tips.

### Work in a Controlled Area

- When working in marinas, use designated sanding and painting areas. Check with the marina manager for the location and proper use of these areas.
- Work indoors or under cover whenever wind can potentially blow dust and paint into the open air.

### Sanding, Grinding or Scraping

- Use environmentally friendly tools, such as vacuum sanders and grinders, to collect and trap dust. Some marinas have this equipment for rent, check with the manager.
- Clean up all debris, trash, sanding dust, and paint chips immediately following any maintenance or repair activity. Dispose of in your regular trash at home or in designated receptacles at your marina.
- Use a drop cloth beneath the hull to catch sanding dust and paint drops when working over unpaved surfaces.
- When sanding or grinding hulls over a paved surface, vacuuming or sweeping loose paint particles is the preferred cleanup method. Do not hose the debris away.

### Painting and Varnishing

- Buy paints, varnishes, solvents, and thinners in sizes that can be used within one year to avoid having to dispose of stale products. Share left over paint and varnish with other boaters.
- When possible, use water-based paints and solvents.



- Switch to longer lasting, harder, or non-toxic anti-fouling paint at your next haul out. Select a bottom paint developed for Lake Erie or other freshwater body of water.
- Paints, solvents, and reducers should be mixed far from the water's edge and transferred to work areas in tightly covered containers of 1 gallon or less.
- Keep in mind that solvents and thinners can be used more than once by allowing the solids to settle out and draining the clean product off the top.
- Thoroughly dry all paint cans before disposing of them in the trash.

#### Recycle Regularly

- Bring used solvents and waste gasoline to local hazardous waste collection days.
- Become knowledgeable about disposal procedures for waste and hazardous materials at your marina or local municipality.
- For additional information, contact Ohio EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention at (614) 644-3469 or Division of Hazardous Waste Management at (614) 644-2917, or visit the Ohio EPA web site at [www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/wastex.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/wastex.html).

#### Be a Conscientious Consumer

- Read product labels. Labels convey information about the degree of hazard associated with a particular product. For example, DANGER equates to extremely flammable, corrosive or toxic; WARNING indicates that the material is moderately hazardous; and CAUTION signals a less hazardous product. Select products that contain no warnings or which merely CAUTION consumers.
- Be wary of unqualified general claims of environmental benefit, e.g., "ozone friendly." A better, more meaningful label would read, "This product is 95 percent less damaging to the ozone layer than past formulations that contained chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)."