

ATTENTION BOATERS

Help keep our waterways and
water supply healthy



VIRGINIA
AMERICAN WATER



Contaminants pose a danger to our water supply and also to fish, bird and wildlife habitats. You can make a difference! Here are some things you can do:

- Fuel cautiously, leaving the tank 5-10% empty and using oil absorbent material to catch drips and vent overflow.
- Keep your engine well-tuned to prevent oil leaks.
- Contain trash and dispose in trash receptacles on shore.
- Recycle cans, glass, plastic, newspaper, antifreeze, oil and batteries.
- Inspect, remove, dispose and report any invasive aquatic plants or animals (i.e., quagga and zebra mussels) on the hull, in bilges or in bait tanks.
- Ensure hull paint is properly applied and maintained to protect from organisms.
- Clean regularly and gently, using phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners.
- Use restrooms on shore. Never discharge raw sewage in the water.
- When cleaning out the bilge and winterizing your boat, avoid dumping gasoline and oil on the driveway or land surface; gas and oil can soak into the soil, pass through your water pipe and affect your drinking water.
- Use a bilge “pillow” (an oil-absorbing sponge available at many marine stores) to remove oil from your bilge water.
- Protect sensitive habitat. Avoid disturbing wildlife and contact with submerged aquatic vegetation.