

# Waste Containment & Disposal

Trash is unsightly and poses a DANGER to humans and to wildlife.

Marine debris such as plastic can snare propellers and endanger marine life. Federal law regulates the disposal of garbage at sea according to the distance a vessel is from shore:

- Within U.S. lakes, rivers, bays, sounds, and within 3 nautical miles from the ocean shore, it is illegal to dump anything other than fish guts.
- Between 3 and 12 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic or other garbage that is greater than one inch in size.
- Between 12 and 25 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic and dunnage, i.e., lining and packing material, nets, lines, etc.
- Beyond 25 nautical miles, it is illegal to dump plastic.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:** There are additional requirements based on the length of your boat. If your boat is 26 feet or longer, you must have a written garbage placard and an oil discharge placard prominently posted to remind you and your crew what can and can not be thrown overboard. The placards must be permanently attached, be made of durable material, and must be at least 4x9 inches in size. These stickers are available at most boating supply stores.

If your boat is 40 feet or longer, you must also have a written waste management plan, stating how you deal with the collected waste onboard, who handles it, and where it is disposed of. This can be as short as one paragraph. We recommend that you keep your plan with your onboard ships papers. An example can be downloaded at [www.uscg.mil/hg/g-m/nmc/wmprv.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hg/g-m/nmc/wmprv.pdf)



Complying with the law is easy. Just follow these tips!

## CONTAIN OR RECYCLE TRASH

- Don't allow trash to be thrown or blown overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it.
- Pack food in reusable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging.
- Never toss cigarette butts overboard. Cigarette filters are made of plastic.
- Purchase refreshments in recyclable containers and recycle them.
- Properly dispose of all trash ashore.
- Recycle cans, glass, cardboard, newspaper, antifreeze, oil, and oil filters
- Discard used monofilament fishing line.

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## FISH SCRAPS

Marinas are often located in sheltered areas that protect boats from storms. However, these areas limit the exchange of water or flushing, so waste discharged into the water may stay in the same general area for an extended length of time.

Fish cleaning may pose a problem if the waste is discarded in a poorly flushed marina basin. Fish waste is smelly and unsightly. Also, life-sustaining oxygen is removed from the water column as bacteria decompose the scraps. Avoid problems by following these tips.

- Do not discard fish waste in poorly flushed areas.
- Ask about your marina's cleaning and disposal policy.
- Bag waste and discard at home or in a dumpster.

## MAINTENANCE WASTE

Dispose of the following items according to the recommendations listed below. Call 609-984-3438 for recycling center locations or visit [www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycle/recycoor.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycle/recycoor.htm) for the names and numbers of local recycling and hazardous waste coordinators.

| Waste Product  | Disposal Method  |
|--|--|
| Oil  | Recycle.   |
| Oil Filters  | Puncture and drain of all free-flowing oil. Recycle oil and canister.          |
| Antifreeze   | Recycle.   |
| Paint & Varnish  | Allow to dry completely, i.e., solidify. Dispose of in regular trash.          |
| Solvents, Gasoline & Pesticides  | Take to a household hazardous waste collection event.                          |
| Expired Emergency Flares   | Take to local fire department or a household hazardous waste collection event. |
| Bilge Pump Float Switches, Thermostats, and other mercury containing devices | Take to a household hazardous waste collection event.                          |

For more information about the Clean Marina Program visit [www.njcleanmarina.org](http://www.njcleanmarina.org)