



Consumer Information

Boating Pollution Prevention Tips

Cleaner marine engines will soon be available to boaters. You can be more environmentally friendly by following a few tips when using your boat.

You Can Make a Difference In Preventing Marine Engine Pollution

Currently 12 million marine engines are operated in the United States. These marine engines are among the highest contributors of hydrocarbons (HC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions in many areas of the country. HC and NOx produce ground-level ozone, which irritates the respiratory system causing chest pain and lung inflammation. Ozone can also aggravate existing respiratory conditions such as asthma. Boaters can join many others who are working to make a difference in preventing pollution from marine engines.



Improving the Marine Engine

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to develop and implement emission standards for commercial and recreational marine engines. The marine industry has been working to develop technology for a new generation of low emission, high performance engines. Recreational boaters will begin seeing this new generation of engines in coming years.

Boaters Can Prevent Pollution

Even with the new technology, the cooperation of individual boaters is essential in the effort to improve air quality and prevent pollution. Boaters can make a difference that will help protect the environment now and in the future by adopting the following practices:

- Limit engine operation at full throttle.
- Eliminate unnecessary idling.
- Avoid spilling gasoline.
- Use a gasoline container you can handle easily and hold securely.
- Pour slowly and smoothly.
- Use a funnel or a spout with an automatic stop device to prevent overfilling the gas tank.
- Close the vent on portable gas tanks when the engine is not in use or when the tank is stored.
- Transport and store gasoline out of direct sunlight in a cool, dry place.

- Use caution when pumping gasoline into a container at the gas station.
- Carefully measure the proper amounts of gasoline and oil when refueling.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule.
- Prepare engines properly for winter storage.
- Buy new, cleaner marine engines.

By combining these strategies, boaters can reduce pollution from marine engines and help improve air quality across the nation and protect public health.

For More Information

The EPA Office of Mobile Sources encourages additional information be obtained electronically via the EPA Internet server or via dial-up modem on the Technology Transfer Network (TTN), an electronic bulletin board system (BBS).

World Wide Web: <http://www.epa.gov/OMSWWW>

TTN BBS: 919-541-5742 (1200-14400 bps, no parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit);
voice helpline: 919-541-5384

Information is also available by calling 313-668-4333, or writing to: U.S. EPA, National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, 2565 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105