

Waste management

Litter, such as plastics, not only ruins the natural beauty of our boating waterways and shorelines, it can also tangle boat props, clog intakes, and injure or kill aquatic life. Solid waste such as bottles, cans, fishing line, plastic bags and other refuse can injure or kill aquatic life and birds by trapping or entangling them. Stash your trash and bring it ashore for proper disposal.

You, as a boater, can be an active steward of this valuable resource by implementing these basic practices:



Controlling Waste

- Have a waste container on your boat. The best policy is to carry out what you carry in. You might consider going one step further and carry out any trash less thoughtful people may have left behind.
- Use recyclable containers and reusable bags. Minimize the use of plastic wrap and disposable bags while out on your boat.
- Don't toss garbage, including cigarette butts, overboard.
- If rubbish blows overboard, make an effort to retrieve it.
- Recycle oil, batteries, plastic, metal, glass and newspaper.
- Recycle fishing line or dispose of it properly. Some marinas and sporting goods stores offer fishing line recycling.
- Use the marina recycling facility or take it home to place in your household recycle bin.
- Properly dispose of unwanted waste chemicals by utilizing the household hazardous waste collection program in your community.
- Clean up after your dog and deposit waste in a rubbish bin or appropriate receptacle.



Marine debris and beach litter are serious problems. Many types of marine life, including fish, dolphins, whales and seabirds often mistake plastics and other trash for food. Commonly mistaken items include cigarette butts, six-pack rings, plastic bags, discarded nets, Styrofoam, bottle caps, fishing line, and other refuse. In addition to eating these items, birds and mammals often feed them to their young. Either way, the result is the same – starvation, suffocation, or poisoning. Some types of debris, such as discarded nets, fishing tackle, and plastics also cause death by entanglement.

The Ocean is not a dump!

A treaty known as the Marine Pollution Act (MARPOL73/78) was enacted in 1973 and updated in 1978 to protect the ocean environment. As of March 2005, 130 countries, including New Zealand, have signed this international treaty.

MARPOL 73/78 specifically prohibits the dumping of any plastics into the ocean or navigable waters.