

Stop discharges of oil and fuel into coastal waters

Use a bilge sock!

Oils, gasoline and diesel fuel, when released into the marine environment, are toxic to marine plants and animals. A poorly maintained engine or an accidental spill may cause these products to collect in the boat's bilge, and be discharged into the water when the bilge is pumped.

A bilge sock contains an absorbent material that will remove these petroleum products from bilge water. Place the sock into your bilge. Use the attached loop to secure the sock to avoid interference with the bilge pump. Check on the sock at least monthly and replace when oil or an oily sheen can be seen in the bilge, indicating that the sock has absorbed to capacity. Dispose of used socks properly: remove from bilge, allow to dry, place in a plastic bag and dispose with your household trash. Check with your marina operator with questions about recycling or disposal options at each facility; also check with your harbormaster about disposal options at public facilities.

Not all bilge socks are created equal. These disposal directions apply only to this specific product.

Check with the manufacturer for the proper disposal of other products.

Jane Swift - Governor

Bob Durand - Secretary of Environmental Affairs

Tom Skinner - CZM Director



Massachusetts Office
of Coastal Zone
Management



Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Administration

Other steps boaters can take to keep coastal waters clean:

- ➡ Prevent leaks by keeping your engine well tuned.
- ➡ Keep your engine clean to spot leaks more easily.
- ➡ Never discharge untreated bilge water directly into coastal waters. It's the law!
- ➡ Never add detergents or emulsifiers to your bilge—when pumped overboard they will degrade water quality.
- ➡ Avoid spills—stay alert when fueling.
- ➡ Do not top off your tank—fuel expands as it heats up!
- ➡ Report spills immediately by calling (800) 424-8802. It's the law!
- ➡ Do not use emulsifiers or dispersants (soaps) to treat a spill. It's the law!

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is providing these free bilge socks to boaters. This product, Enviro-Bond, was chosen because of its ease of use and disposal, as well as its oil-absorbing capabilities. If your engine is well maintained, one bilge sock should last through the boating season. Through this educational program, CZM hopes to encourage boaters to use these inexpensive products on a regular basis.

Although CZM does not expressly endorse or guarantee any particular product or vendor, you may obtain further information on this product, including how to purchase additional bilge socks from the vendor, by visiting the vendor's website: www.enviro-bond.com.

For more information about this project and CZM, check out our website at: www.state.ma.us/czm or call us at (617) 626-1212.