

# BOAT SEWAGE

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP BOAT SEWAGE OUT OF THE WATER

- Always use shoreside restrooms when docked and before casting off.
- Plan ahead for restroom stops.
- Do not discharge sewage, treated or untreated, in any lake or reservoir.
- Never discharge untreated sewage within 3 miles from shore and within the navigable waters of the U.S.
- Empty holding tanks at sewage pumpout facilities, or call a mobile pumpout service.
- To find the locations of sewage pumpout facilities in California, go to [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org), [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov), or [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov).
- All boats with installed toilets must have a Coast Guard-approved Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) if operating in U.S. navigational waters.
- Boats without toilets – use a portable toilet on-board and empty at a dump station.
- If you have a Y-valve with a through-hull fitting that allows direct overboard discharge, it must be secured in a closed position (using a padlock or non-releasable wire tie) when within the 3-mile limit.
- Never discharge any sewage, treated or untreated, in a Federally-designated “no-discharge area.”
- Avoid holding tank disinfectants and deodorizers that contain chlorine, formaldehyde, or other components that can be harmful to aquatic organisms. Whatever you use, follow instructions carefully and use the recommended amount for treatment.
- Choose MSDs that use a holding tank or use a portable toilet. When regularly emptied at a pumpout or dump-station, they offer the best environmental protection.

### Information about Vessel Sewage Management

#### California Coastal Commission

Locate sewage pumpout facilities in California on the clean boating Website  
(800) COAST4U  
[www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/ccbndx.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/ccbndx.html)

#### California Department of Boating and Waterways

Locate sewage pumpout facilities in California on the Department’s Website  
(888) 326-2822  
[www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov)

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### **Earth's 911**

Locate sewage pump-out facilities in California on the Website  
[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

### **San Francisco Estuary Project**

Fact sheets about boat sewage impacts, management, and regulation  
[www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/sfep/programs/boated](http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/sfep/programs/boated)  
(510) 622-2465

### **Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program**

Information about the environmental impacts of boat sewage  
[www.santamonicabay.org/site/programs/layout/boater.jsp](http://www.santamonicabay.org/site/programs/layout/boater.jsp)  
(213) 576-6645



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