

## Did you know ?

Sewage reduces oxygen levels in the water that fish and other aquatic species need to survive.

Since the microorganisms within the sewage need oxygen, any discharge into waterways reduces the amount of oxygen available to fish and other aquatic life.

Heavy nutrient loads in sewage also promote excessive algae growth preventing life-giving sunlight from reaching subsurface vegetation.

Untreated sewage from one 20-gallon holding tank can have the same amount of bacteria as 10,000 gallons of treated sewage!



## Important Contact Information

Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection  
[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)  
850-245-2118

Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
[www.myfwc.com/boating](http://www.myfwc.com/boating)

Boating and Environmental  
Violations

Emergencies  
1-800-320-0519  
Non-Emergencies  
1-850-413-9900

US Coast Guard  
[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

City of Marco Island  
239-389-5000



**City of Marco Island**

## Clean Boating Habits

**Waterways  
Advisory  
Committee**

**August 2020**

## Solid Waste Management

- Carry a trash bag
- Stow loose items
- Break apart plastic six-pack rings
- Dispose of line
- Recycle glass metal, plastic, batteries, oil



Typhoid, hepatitis, cholera, gastroenteritis and other diseases are transmitted through contaminated water.



## Sewage Management

- 1 Use onshore restrooms whenever possible before leaving for a boat trip.
- 2 Use pump-out facilities and waste dump receptacles to reduce or eliminate the discharge of sewage into our waters.
- 3 Always know where your waste goes and make sure it doesn't enter directly into the water.
- 4 If you have a flow-through treatment system, make sure it is working properly and that all your waste goes through the system.
- 5 Use enzyme-based products in your holding tank instead of deodorizers and disinfectants which contain chemicals harmful to aquatic life.

## Its the law !

- Federal law requires boats with on-board heads (toilets) to use a U.S Coast Guard certified Marine Sanitation Device (MSD), preferably a type III that is pumped out on-shore.
- The Federal Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of untreated sewage from a vessel within 3 nautical miles of shore. Penalties can be up to \$25,000!
- In Florida, statute 327.53 prohibits boaters from discharging sewage extending 9 miles out into the Gulf of Mexico or 3 miles out in the Atlantic Ocean. Penalties can be severe!

