

# BOATS ON THE BAY

KEEP IT GOOD, CLEAN, FUN.

Enjoying your time on the water, takes a bit of learning up front. Each boat is different, so we encourage you to look at your own to help protect the bay by taking proper care of your marine vessel.



## WHO IS AFFECTED

Both treated and untreated sewage released in our clean waters can affect **human health, wildlife, and the environment.**

Boaters, fisherman, diners, sightseers, swimmers, divers, pets, seals, oysters, fish, otters, birds, eelgrass, insects are all affected. The list goes on, so let's help protect ourselves and our home! Sewage in the water can spread bacterial and viral diseases that are able to survive for months in salt water.

## WHAT IS RELEASED

when your Y-valve is open?  
**SEWAGE.**

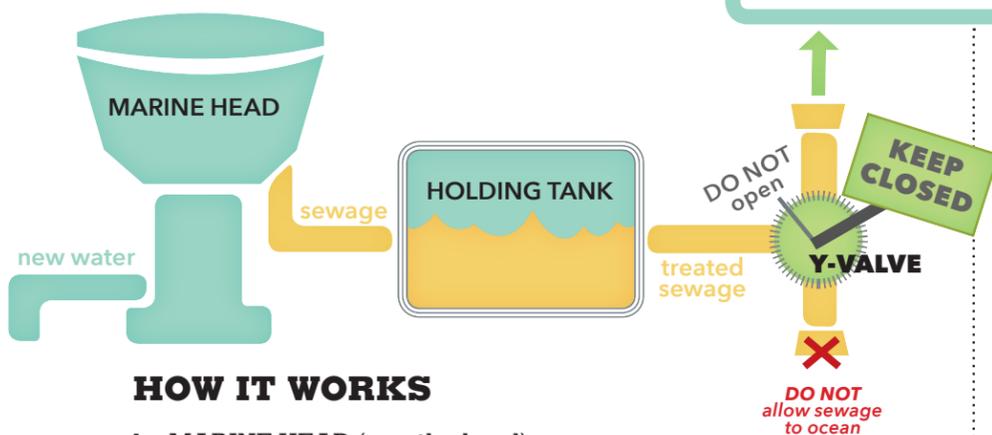
The waste released can spread **disease, contaminate shellfish beds, and lower oxygen levels in water.**

When sewage breaks down, it uses up oxygen in the water and releases carbon dioxide, which can harm fish, shellfish and other wildlife. This is a particular concern in shallow water and areas of low tidal flushing.

Beware! **A single weekend boater who flushes untreated sewage into our waters produces the same amount of bacterial pollution as 10,000 people whose sewage passes through a treatment plant.**

## YOUR Y-VALVE

HOW IT WORKS



### HOW IT WORKS

1. MARINE HEAD (or toilet bowl).
2. Flush leads sewage to HOLDING TANK.
3. Sewage continues to Y-VALVE, the Y- (or T-) shaped part of the pipe. (Remember, it looks different on every boat)
4. Y-VALVE CLOSED IS GOOD, waste remains in the HOLDING TANK aboard your vessel until you to visit a designated PUMPOUT STATION for safe disposal!

## HOW TO HELP

USE PUMP OUT STATIONS

Our famous Morro Rock looks very small from three miles away. From shore all the way to that far, far away mile marker, it is illegal to release sewage into water. Always keep even minimal waste from entering our waters at all and our recreation and fishing areas clean and safe.

### Look for the symbol and help prevent pollution.

There are designated waste pump out stations along the coast, marked by the symbol (above, left), you will find three locations in Morro Bay alone! Flip this page over to find a helpful map of these spots and other waste collection facilities.

*Use the dye tabs included with this Clean Boating bag to make sure your system is working correct and leak-free!*

## BE AN ESTUARY SCIENTIST



Connect with us on our website and social spaces to find events, interesting articles, and more info about the Morro Bay Estuary.



[MBNEP.org](http://MBNEP.org)

We are continually learning about our oceans and the intricate waterways that lead into the bay. Get involved with the Estuary Program's studies, monitoring, beach cleanups, and education events. By learning about the bay with our program staff, you can learn more ways to help keep Morro Bay a great place for good, clean, fun.