

TIPS FOR MORRO BAY



BAY-FRIENDLY BOATING

Prepared and presented by the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, a local nonprofit.

MBNEP.org

Information provided by the following organizations.



WASTE COLLECTION FACILITIES IN MORRO BAY

	Used Oil Collection	Oil Filter Collection	Antifreeze & Oil Filter Collection	Sewage Pumpout	Bilge Pumpout	Absorbent Collection & Exchange	Contact
Harbor Dept. Collection Facility 1	●		●			●	805.772.6254
South T-pier 2					●		805.772.6254
Morro Bay Yacht Club 3				●			805.772.3981
Tidelands Park 4				●			805.772.6254



HAVE FUN BOATING IN OUR BAY!



1 PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR HEAD.

Your marine head, that is. Manage sewage properly. Discharging untreated sewage within three miles from shore is illegal. This includes coastal waters, lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. Never discharge treated sewage into yacht harbors, marinas, swimming areas, sanctuaries, or federal No Discharge Zones. Use sewage pumpouts, dump stations, or mobile-pumpout services instead.

2 STOW IT, DON'T THROW IT.

Keep trash on board. Never throw cigarettes, fishing line, or any other garbage into waterways. Take advantage of shore-side facilities to recycle plastic, glass, metal, and paper. Avoid excess packaging.

3 REDUCE GREY WATER DISCHARGE.

Use a phosphate-free soap to minimize the impacts of grey water on the marine environment. Whenever possible, minimize discharge by using onshore facilities to wash dishes and shower.

HELP KEEP MORRO BAY CLEAN FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

TEN TIPS FOR CLEAN BOATING

4 USE SPILL-PROOF OIL CHANGE & FUELING METHODS.

Use a portable oil-change pump, available at marine supply stores, to change oil. To prevent spills, drain used oil into a sealable container. Fill the fuel tank slowly. Do not top off or overflow the fuel tank. Leave 10% of the tank empty to allow fuel to expand as it warms. **Always have an oil absorbent handy to catch spills from oil changes and fueling.** Recycle saturated absorbents, fuel bibs, oil, and oil filters at hazardous waste facilities.

5 DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPERLY.

Dispose of paint, batteries, antifreeze, cleaning products, oil, oil filters, and other hazardous waste at a collection facility. Save time, and pump out waste in the same visit!



6 CLEAN & MAINTAIN YOUR BOAT THE GREEN WAY.

When possible, perform maintenance tasks with your boat out of the water. When working on the water, minimize impact by containing waste with tarps and vacuum sanders. Use cleaners that are water-based, biodegradable, phosphate-free, and labeled as less toxic. Consider using non-copper, antifouling coatings for your boat.

7 CLEAN, DRY, & DRAIN YOUR BOAT.

Do not spread aquatic invasive plants and animals. Before leaving the water, examine your boat and equipment. Remove any visible mud, plants, or animals. Never release plants or animals into a body of water unless they originated in that body of water. **Do not release plants or animals into storm drains; most storm drains lead directly to water bodies or wetlands.** Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water (boats, trailers, equipment, dogs, boots, clothes, etc.).

Minimize fouling growth and extend the life of the hull coating by thoroughly wiping the boat bottom with a soft, non-abrasive sponge. Use hull-cleaning companies who employ green management practices such as using non-abrasive scrubbing agents.

8 PREVENT OILY DISCHARGE FROM THE BILGE.

To prevent fuel and oil leaks, keep the bilge clean and dry and your boat engine well-tuned. Put oil absorbents beneath the engine and in the bilge. Check them often and dispose of used absorbents at a hazardous waste collection center.

9 PUT FISH WASTE IN THE TRASH, NOT THE WATER.

Whenever possible, use a fish-cleaning station and put all fish waste in the closed dumpster provided. **If you need to clean fish onboard your boat, collect and bring all waste to a closed dumpster.** Dumping fish carcasses into the water is against Morro Bay City code and can result in fines. **Fish carcasses can get stuck in birds' throats, causing injury or death.**

10 DO NOT ADD SOAP TO DISPERSE SPILLS.

Never use soap to disperse fuel or oil spills. This is harmful to the environment and illegal. Instead, use your spill kit and call the Harbor Department for help. Avoid using bilge cleaners as they may be inadvertently discharged overboard.

BOATING ON THE BAY

IS GOOD CLEAN FUN.

Enjoying your time on the water while keeping Morro Bay clean and healthy is simple. We encourage you to use these bay-friendly boating practices and resources to preserve our bay for generations to come.



WHO IS AFFECTED?

Both treated and untreated sewage released into the water **affects the health of people, wildlife, and the environment.**

You can help protect us and our bay by keeping sewage in the holding tank until you use a pumpout station.

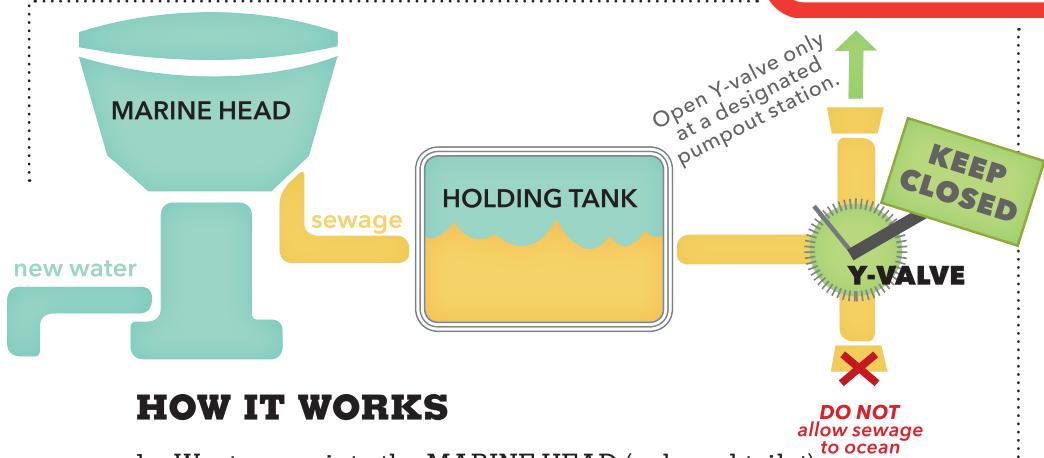
WHAT IS RELEASED when your Y-valve is open? SEWAGE.

Sewage can spread bacterial and viral diseases.

When sewage breaks down, it uses up oxygen in the water. This can make it hard for fish, shellfish, and other wildlife to get the oxygen they need to survive.

Sewage often floats, creating an unsightly and smelly mess on the water.

YOUR Y-VALVE HOW IT WORKS



HOW IT WORKS

1. Waste goes into the MARINE HEAD (onboard toilet).
2. Flushing sends sewage to the HOLDING TANK.
3. Sewage stays in holding tank until the Y-VALVE (the Y- or T-shaped part of the pipe) is opened. Keep the Y-valve closed.
4. Keep the Y-valve closed until you visit a designated PUMPOUT STATION for safe disposal!

HOW TO HELP USE PUMPOUT STATIONS

When it's time to empty the waste from your boat's holding tank, look for the pumpout station symbol. There are designated pumpout stations all along the California coast. **You will find two pumpout stations in Morro Bay.** Flip this page over to see a map of these pumpout spots and other resources designed to help boaters.

Disposing of sewage and other hazardous material properly ensures that you're following the law and keeping our bay clean, beautiful, and safe for all of us to enjoy.

Use dye tabs to make sure that your holding is leak-free and your Y-valve is closed. If you don't see dye in the water after you flush, you're in the clear.

KEEP IN TOUCH



Connect with the Estuary Program on our website and blog, at our events, and in social spaces.

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