BOAT CLEANING BEST PRACTICES

As you clean and maintain your boat, help keep the environment healthy too.

CLEAN CAREFULLY

- Wash frequently with a nonabrasive pad and plain water.
- If using detergent or cleanser, select the least toxic product for the job.
- Use soaps that are phosphate free, biodegradable and nontoxic. Use sparingly.
- Wax the boat.
- Clean teak with a mild soap and abrasive pads or bronze wool.
- Avoid detergents that contain heavy chemicals.
- Try alternative cleaning products (see flip side).

BE A CONSCIENTIOUS CONSUMER

Read product labels. Labels reveal the degree of hazard associated with a product.

For example:

- DANGER = Extremely flammable, corrosive or toxic.
- WARNING = Moderately hazardous.
- CAUTION = Less hazardous.

Select products that contain no warnings or which merely caution consumers.

Sea Grant
Lake Champlain

ALTERNATIVES TO TOXIC PRODUCTS

Bleach: Borax or hydrogen peroxide

Detergent and Soap: Elbow grease

Scouring Powders: Baking soda; or rub area with 1/2 lemon dipped in borax, then rinse

General Cleaner: Baking soda and vinegar; or lemon juice combined with borax paste

Floor Cleaner: 1 cup vinegar + 2 gallons of water

Window Cleaner: 1 cup vinegar + 1 quart warm water

Aluminum Cleaner: 2 Tbsp. cream of tartar + 1 quart hot water

Brass Cleaner: Worcestershire sauce; or paste made of equal amounts of salt, vinegar and water

Copper Cleaner: Lemon juice and water; or paste of lemon juice, salt and flour

Chrome Cleaner/Polish: Apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish

Stainless Steel Cleaner: Baking soda or mineral oil for polishing; vinegar to remove spots

Fiberglass Stain Remover: Baking soda paste

Mildew Remover: Paste of equal amounts lemon juice and salt, or white vinegar and salt

Drain Opener: Flush with boiling water + 1/4 cup baking soda + 1/4 cup vinegar

Wood Polish: Olive or almond oil (interior only)

Hand Cleaner: Baby oil or margarine will dissolve grease and dirt

Rug/Upholstery Cleaner: Dry corn starch sprinkled on and vacuumed off

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GREAT LAKES CLEAN MARINA