

Garbage and Fishing Waste

Everyone generates trash and garbage. When not handled properly, trash, fish waste, fishing line, hazardous waste, and pet waste can injure marine life and people, and can ruin your boating experience. Consider the following tips.

Garbage

1. Don't toss trash, including cigarette butts overboard. Never discard plastics into the water.
2. Always store your trash on-board your boat and dispose of it when you return to land. Store it securely so it does not fly away while boating.
3. Use the appropriately marked trash receptacles. If a trash can is full, find another that has room for your trash.
4. Separate recyclable materials, like cans and bottles, from regular trash for recycling at the marina or at a local redemption center.
5. If you are not sure how to dispose of a certain waste, ask your marine professional.
6. Never leave used oil or fuel filters unattended near a dumpster after hours. Store it in a safe and secure place (on-board your boat for example) and contact the marina office during normal business hours.
7. Be a good neighbor and pick up trash that you come across, either floating in the water or on land.
8. Always pick up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in the marina's trash receptacles.

Fish Waste

1. Fish waste should be discarded offshore unless there are length limits for the type of fish caught. If fish are cleaned at the marina, they should be cleaned at a designated location and the waste should be disposed of as directed by the marina staff.
2. Take particular care to properly dispose of nylon fishing line. In the water, it can entangle fish, wildlife, swimmers, and boat propellers. Recycle fishing line at your tackle shop.

Adapted from the VT Boating Handbook, VT Boat-Ed, the VT DEC Marina website (<http://www.eaovt.org/sbcap/marinas.htm>), and the Connecticut Clean Marina Guide Book.

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