Polystyrene Foam in the Lake Champlain Basin:
Insights from 2025 Marina Survey

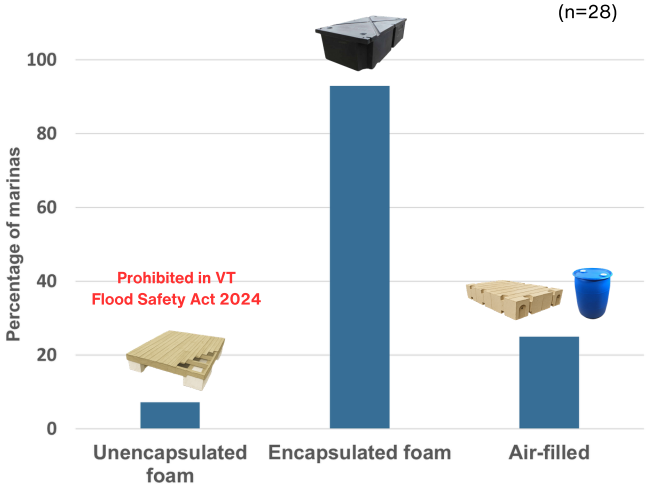
Polystyrene foam is lightweight, does not biodegrade, crumbles easily into small pieces that are difficult to cleanup, and can negatively impact wildlife and our waterways. As such, the **Lake Champlain Basin Marine Debris Coalition** (Coalition) educates lakeshore businesses, property owners, and recreational users about the impacts of foam marine debris with a goal to limit its presence in the lake as litter.

In the summer of 2025, the Coalition surveyed Lake Champlain marinas to understand their use of polystyrene foam and gauge their interest in and opportunity to switch to alternatives. Twenty-eight out of 44 marinas responded to the survey. This document summarizes key results and take-aways.

RESULTS

"What type(s) of dock floats do you use?"

(n=28)



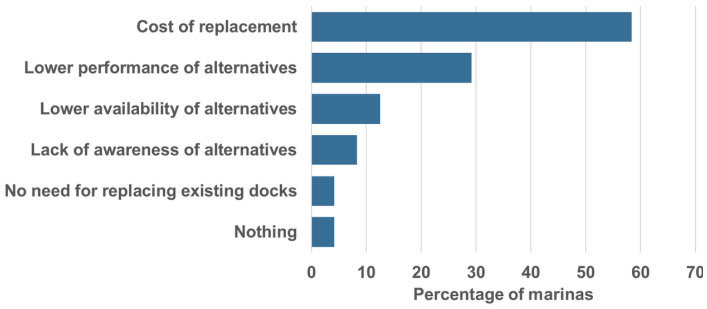
"What other foam products do you use/sell?"

(n=27)

Use/Sell	Foam products	% marinas
Use	Mooring buoy	11
	Dock bumper	4
	Channel marker	4
Sell	Coolers	11
	Pool noodles	7

"What makes it challenging for you to use alternatives to foam-based products?"

(n=25)



TAKE-AWAYS

- Dock floats are the predominant foam-based product used at marinas.
- The limited use of unencapsulated foam floats is good news!
- There is potential to increase the use of air-filled floats, especially if funding was available.

GOOD PRACTICES

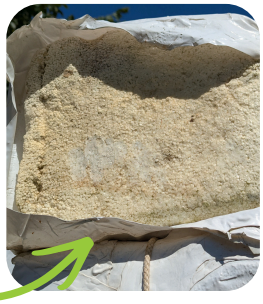


Regularly inspect encapsulated foam floats

Punctured floats can leak foam and pollute the environment.

Store old foam floats indoors before disposal

Old floats stored outdoors can break down into small foam pieces ending up in waterways.



SUPPORT AND THANKS

We would like to express our gratitude to survey participants and those who support this effort!

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Scan the QR code for more information about the Marine Debris Coalition

Lake Champlain Basin Marine Debris Coalition is led by Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Rozalia Project, Lake Champlain Committee, Conservation Law Foundation, Vermont Boat and Marine Association, and Lake George Association.