

WATERSHED FRIENDLY BOAT AND AUTO TIPS

How we take care of our boats, personal watercrafts, mobile homes, cars and other vehicles greatly influences the health of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair.

Following are some watershed friendly alternatives to popular products that take a toll on our environment. The best part is they can be less expensive and less harmful to you too.

<i>Product</i>	<i>Better Alternative</i>
Bleach	Borax or hydrogen peroxide
Chrome cleaner	Apple cider vinegar to clean, baby oil to polish
Drain cleaner	Boiling water and plunger or plumber's snake
Engine cleaner	Steam clean the engine in a dedicated service area.
Fiberglass stain remover	Baking soda paste, scrub pad, "elbow grease"
Paint stripper	Physically remove old paint without chemical use. Avoid products containing methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, benzene, trichloroethane, xylene or toluene.
Scouring powders	Baking soda and "elbow grease"
Window cleaner	Vinegar and lemon juice mixed in lukewarm water
Wood polish	Olive oil or almond oil for interior wood; use water- or borax-based products.

Fuel and Oil

When fueling, avoid topping off!

Remember that fuel expands as it heats up in your tank.

Store fuel only in approved container.

Routinely check for and fix oil and fuel leaks.

Avoid pumping any bilge water that is oily or has a sheen.

Engine care

Keep boat and car engines properly tuned for efficient fuel consumption and clean exhaust.

Use a drip pan when doing engine maintenance. Drippings left on the cement get washed into nearby drains and end up in our streams.

Sewage control

Use onshore restrooms when docked, and encourage everyone to use the facilities before casting off.

Empty portable toilets *only* at pump-out stations or at home. Most Lake St. Clair marinas have pump-outs and allow non-members to use them.

Clean up after your pet to prevent pet waste from washing into storm drains.

Keep sewage out of storm drains and lakes!

Car Washing & Boat Cleaning

Look for non-toxic and phosphate-free cleansers.

Use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda and lemon juice. Avoid those with bleach, ammonia, lye or petroleum distillates (*see chart*).

References: Marine Environmental Education Foundation's National Clean Boating Campaign 2000 Action Kit and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's "Tips to Protect the Environment"

Our Mission

The mission of the Clinton River Watershed Council is to protect, enhance and celebrate the Clinton River, its watershed, and Lake St. Clair.

Our Vision for the Clinton River

Individual and community actions protect and improve the health of the Clinton River, assuring that it's natural, economic, and recreational value enhances the quality of life of those who live, work, and play in the Clinton River watershed and Lake St. Clair.

To see how you can make a difference at home and in your community, contact the Clinton River Watershed Council and ask for the complete stormwater tip card series. Or, for more information, visit our website at www.crowc.org.

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