

CLEAN BOATER TIP SHEET



Sewage

When sewage is dumped into a lake, stream, or other surface water, there is a potential for disease-causing pathogens to enter the water. These pathogens pose a risk to swimmers, anglers, and other people coming into direct contact with the water. Not only is there a risk to humans, there is a risk to fish and other aquatic life. As sewage breaks down in the aquatic environment, the bacteria that feed upon the sewage consume large amounts of oxygen from the water column. This in turn reduces the amount of oxygen available for fish. Many of our highly valued gamefish, including trout, salmon, yellow perch, and smallmouth bass, are especially prone to distress under low dissolved oxygen levels. Additionally, there are a number of chemical additives that are used in marine sanitary devices that can be of concern. You, as a boater on Indiana water, can be an active steward of this valuable resource by implementing these practices:



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Handling Vessel Sewage

- Before heading out on the lake, use the restroom facilities at the marina.
- Use the marina's pumpout or dump station. These should be well marked. If there is not a pumpout or dump station at the marina in which you launch or moor, check with marina management. They may have a cooperative agreement to use another marina's pumpout station.
- Know your marine sanitation device to prevent accidental dumping.
- Use environmentally-friendly additives for your marine sanitation device.
- Follow the law—it is *illegal* to discharge sewage or waste into public waters (*Indiana Code 14-15-2-8*).



- Find a pumpout location near you by visiting www.idem.IN.gov (keyword: pumpout) or by calling the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (800) 451-6027.

Pumping a Boat's Holding Tank

1. Remove the cap from the boat's deck waste fitting.
2. Insert the hose nozzle into the deck fitting. (You may need an adapter to make it fit. Marinas generally have them available. They are also for sale in boat stores.)
3. Turn the pump on. If there is a hose valve, open it to start the suction.
4. When waste is no longer seen in the sightglass, close the hose valve, turn off the pump and remove the nozzle from the deck fitting.
5. If a water hose is available, rinse the boat's tank and pump it dry.
6. Put the pump nozzle (with open valve) in a water source and pump the water for 15 seconds to rinse the hose.
7. Close the hose valve. Put away the hose. Turn off the pump and replace the deck fitting cap.



Look for Pumpout Stations. Do Not Dump Overboard!

For More Information

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www.IN.gov/dnr/lakemich