



Storing & Disposal of Hazardous Substances

We use many hazardous materials in our routine boating activities. Cleaners, paints, solvents, batteries, zincs, residues from sanding and scraping are just a few of the items that can be toxic to both you and the environment if they aren't handled responsibly.

Some tips for handling and disposing of common hazardous wastes.

General Handling:

- ◆ When possible, store hazardous materials on-shore and keep as little as possible on your boat.
- ◆ Annually, remove unused products from your boat.
- ◆ Keep these items in a dry and secure area.
- ◆ Read the labels and for more information on the proper procedures for handling or working with a particular substance, consult the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). MSDS are available on the internet at <http://www.msdssearch.com/>

Cleaners, Solvents, Paints

Many of these products contain petroleum-based Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). These are flammable and toxic to humans and the environment.

- ◆ Use alternatives that aren't as toxic and don't contain VOCs.
- ◆ Any release of these should be treated like an oil spill and immediately cleaned up with absorbent materials. The soiled materials should be treated as hazardous waste.
- ◆ Check the lids and ensure they are tight.
- ◆ Mix paints and solvents away from the water and in small quantities as needed.

- ◆ Clean brushes and rollers away from the water and avoid any dripping into the water.
- ◆ Reuse thinners and solvents. When the solvent is unusable, store it in a tight container in a secure area onshore and dispose of it as a hazardous waste as soon as possible.
- ◆ Share paints and varnishes to reduce the amount unused product you have to store.
- ◆ DO NOT dispose of these items in the trash or in the waste oil drums.

For Batteries, Zincs, Sandblast or Sanding Residue

Batteries, zincs, and sandblasting residue all contain heavy metals which are known to accumulate in marine sediments and work themselves up the food chain. If they are not handled properly, these metals can have long-term impact on your health and the environment.

- ◆ Lead-acid batteries should be removed from the harbor for disposal. Disposal of batteries in the harbor trash is not permitted. Talk to your harbormaster about battery disposal options at your harbor.
- ◆ Small batteries should be segregated from other trash, and disposed of as a hazardous waste.
- ◆ Used zincs, once removed from your vessel should be saved for recycling as scrap metal. Talk to your harbormaster about zinc recycling options at your harbor.
- ◆ Collected sanding dust and sandblasting residue should be disposed as a hazardous waste if it contains paint, fiberglass or metals.

