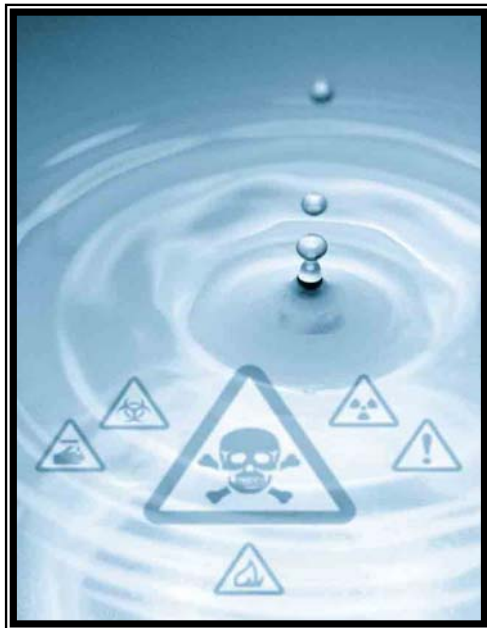


## Boat Cleaning

Many products used to clean boats contain toxic chemicals such as chlorine, phosphates, and ammonia. These products can enter the water during boat cleaning and can poison marine life. Degreasers dry the natural oils fish need for their gills to take in oxygen. The best way to keep toxic chemicals out of the water is to not use them at all. In many cases, "elbow grease" will go a long way.

### Clean Gently

- When possible, wash the boat on land where the washwater can be contained or filtered.
- Wash your boat frequently with a sponge and plain water.
- Use detergents sparingly.
- Avoid cleaners with bleach, ammonia, lye, or petroleum distillates.
- Use phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners, such as those in table. Though much less harmful, these cleaners can still cause damage to local marine life and should be used only on land when possible.
- If your boat does not have sloughing paint on it, wash over grass or soil with an environmentally friendly detergent.



**Toxic Water**  
(Courtesy of Surfrider)

- Wax your boat – a good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained.
- Clean wood with a mild soap powder and a nylon brush – not harsh chemical cleaners.
- Ask your ship's store to stock common alternative products listed in the table and biodegradable spray-type cleaners that do not require rinsing.

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For more information,  
contact the Clean  
Marina Coordinator at  
503-378-2625