

Glossary of Ingredients to Avoid

ACIDS AND BASES (phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid and lye) change the pH of the water and can be detrimental to all aquatic life.

AMMONIA is a lung and skin irritant. Releases toxic chloramine gas when mixed with chlorine.

BUTOXYETHANOL is a skin, eye and respiratory irritant. Long-term exposure may cause kidney and/or liver damage.

EDTA and NTA (ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid) in detergents are not biodegradable and may cause cancer.

ETHYLENE GLYCOL may cause lung or skin irritation. Ingesting large quantities can cause death.

FORMALDEHYDE is a known carcinogen.

GASOLINE contains benzene, a known carcinogen, and MTBE which can contaminate groundwater. Inhalation can cause lung irritation and harm the nervous system.

METHYLENE CHLORIDE causes cancer in laboratory animals.

PENTACHLOROPHENOL (PCP) causes cancer in laboratory animals.

PETROLEUM DISTILLATES (mineral spirits, kerosene, white spirits, naphtha, and Stoddard solvent) short-term exposure can cause temporary eye clouding. Longer exposure can damage the nervous system, skin, kidneys, and eyes.

PHOSPHATES in detergents can cause algal blooms that decrease oxygen in the water and can kill fish.

SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE (chlorine bleach) is a lung and eye irritant. Forms toxic chloramine gas if mixed with ammonia, vinegar, or acids.

SOLVENTS (chlorinated and petroleum-based) do not dissolve in water. Many solvents cause cancer. Large amounts can cause dizziness, disorientation or unconsciousness.

TRIBUTYL TIN OXIDE is toxic to both humans and aquatic organisms.



ACT to protect our Coastal Bays Watershed

ASSATEAGUE COASTKEEPER®

The Assateague **COASTKEEPER** is a program of the Assateague Coastal Trust, and is a member of Chesapeake **WATERKEEPERS**—“protecting families by preventing pollution.”



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ASSATEAGUE
COASTKEEPER®

COASTKEEPER's Guide to Bay-Friendly Boat Cleaning

Please remember what goes in the water today ends up in our fish and shellfish tomorrow! Use this guide to choose less toxic cleaning alternatives for your boat.

- **Read Label**
Avoid purchasing products labeled “hazardous,” “toxic,” or “flammable.”
- **Use Products Sparingly**
Frequent maintenance can reduce the need for harmful cleaning products
- **Clean Carefully**
Prevent products from entering the water and dispose of all chemicals properly. Try to do all cleaning in the boatyard.

Report Water Pollution to: 410-629-1538

Maryland's Coastal Bays are a summertime playground for boating, fishing, crabbing, clamming and swimming. Each of us needs to do our part to keep our waterways 'swimmable and fishable,' and using green cleaning techniques aboard our boats is a great place to start! With so many boats on the water, small discharges of oil, sewage, and toxic maintenance products from our boats can add up. Best management practices protect the environmental resources that make boating enjoyable. The Assateague COASTKEEPER hopes you will keep this brochure handy and refer to it often. There are many 'green' cleaning products available- just check your local boating store, look for them online, or try some of our easy 'homemade' solutions! Thanks for helping to keep our Bays healthy and clean!

GENERAL AND SURFACE CLEANERS

Avoid

PHOSPHATES
AMMONIA
SODIUM HYPOCHLORIDE (chlorine bleach)
CHLORINATED SOLVENTS
PETROLEUM DISTILLATES
LYE

Better Alternatives

- Choose vegetable or citrus-based biodegradable soaps.
- Use a paste of lemon juice and borax.

DEGREASERS

Avoid

METHYLENE CHLORIDE
PHOSPHATES
GASOLINE
CHLORINATED SOLVENTS

Better Alternatives

- Choose products that are water-based or contain d-limonene or pine oil.
- Use a paste of lemon juice and borax.

TEAK CLEANERS

Avoid

CHLORINATED SOLVENTS

Better Alternatives

- Use a biodegradable soap to remove dirt and salt water.
- Instead of bleaching teak, use a mild powder soap and scrub with bronze wool.

METAL CLEANERS

Avoid

PETROLEUM DISTILLATES
ACIDS

Better Alternatives

- **Aluminum:** Mix 1 tbsp. cream of tartar in 1 qt. of hot water.
- **Brass:** Use Worcestershire sauce or a paste made of equal amounts of salt, vinegar, and water.
- **Bronze:** Mix one tsp. salt, one cup white vinegar, and flour to make paste. Apply paste and let sit for 15 minutes to one hour.
- **Chrome:** Clean with a soft cloth dipped in undiluted white vinegar or cider vinegar. Polish with baby oil.
- **Copper:** Clean with a paste of equal parts vinegar and salt. Rinse completely to prevent corrosion.
- **Stainless steel:** Moisten cloth with undiluted vinegar and wipe clean. To remove streaks, rub with olive oil.

WINDOW CLEANERS

Avoid

AMMONIA
BUTOXYETHANOL

Better Alternatives

- Dilute 1 cup of white vinegar with 1 qt. of water.
- Choose vinegar-based products.

MILDEW REMOVERS

Avoid

SODIUM HYPOCHLORIDE (chlorine bleach)

Better Alternative

- Scrub with a borax and water paste using a nylon scouring pad.

HEAD CLEANERS and DEODORIZERS

Avoid

SODIUM HYPOCHLORIDE (chlorine bleach)
FORMALDEHYDE
AMMONIA

Better Alternatives

- Use sewage pumpouts frequently to prevent odors.
- Choose non-toxic, enzyme or bacterial-based products.

FIBERGLASS STAIN REMOVERS

Avoid

CHLORINATED SOLVENTS

Better Alternatives

- Choose non-toxic, non-chlorinated products.
- Use a paste of baking soda and water.

WOOD PRESERVATIVES and STAINS

Avoid

PENTACHLOROPHENOL (PCP)
TRIBUTYL TIN OXIDE
PETROLEUM DISTILLATES

Better Alternatives

- Use water-based stains and preservatives.
- Use finishes derived from natural sources, such as shellac, tung oil, and linseed oil.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Keep a clean hull and trailer.

Visit www.assateaguecoastkeeper.org for more information