



The Green Blue
A joint BMF and
RYA initiative
RYA Scotland, Caledonia House
South Gyle, Edinburgh
EH12 9DQ
Tel: 0131 317 4616
scotland@thegreenblue.org.uk

Main Admin Office
Tel: 023 8060 4100
Fax: 023 8060 4294
www.thegreenblue.org.uk



How to Guide **The Green Blue**





Brought to you by:



Supported by:



The Green Blue

The Green Blue is an exciting new environmental awareness initiative by the British Marine Federation Scotland and the Royal Yachting Association Scotland.

To help you think and act in a more environmentally conscious way, **The Green Blue** has designed this simple guide packed with advice and tips.

We hope it will inform you, the recreational boating community, about our environmental impacts, emphasising how you can avoid or minimise these effects, by taking a few incremental steps.

The Green Blue is for everyone who enjoys getting out on the water, or whose livelihood depends on boats and watersports. By working towards an environmentally sustainable boating community, we can save money, avoid red tape and safeguard the waters and habitats we enjoy for the future.

Find out more and register for a free Green Blue sticker at
www.thegreenblue.org.uk

Information | Practical Projects |
Research | Product Reviews |

Making the environment second nature

Did you know?

- The legal limit for hydrocarbon in water discharge is roughly one drop of oil in 2l of water (15mg/l).
- A single litre of fuel can contaminate over a million litres of water.
- Oil is toxic to fish and water species. Prolonged exposure affects reproduction, growth and feeding of aquatic life, even at low concentrations.
- The majority of oil pollution in our rivers and oceans comes from every day sources like refuelling, engine emissions and oil leaks.

Advice

- The most effective way to clean oily bilge water is to use an oil absorbent sock.
- Check bilge water for contaminants before routine pumping.
- Use a funnel when pouring fuel or oil.
- Good maintenance of fuel lines, connections and seals helps avoid leaks.
- Transfer used oil or waste fuel in proper containers and dispose of in oil waste facilities.
- Dispose of all oily or fuel-soaked materials in the hazardous waste containers.
- When fuelling, avoid topping off or overfilling to reduce the risk of fuel overflowing from vents. Allow room for expansion in the tank.
- Never use detergents to deal with spills – it may disperse the fuel or oil and save you embarrassment, but they can be more toxic to aquatic life than the oil itself.
- Avoid using oil and fuel on the pontoons, other than on those dedicated to refuelling. Off the boat, the Government recommends a distance of at least 10m from the water.

Useful information

The Scottish Oil Care Campaign will give advice about the storage and disposal of oil – www.sepa.org.uk/socc/index.html

Your nearest oil disposal Centre can be found at: www.oilbankline.org.uk

Report incidents through the Scottish Oil Care Campaign's emergency pollution hotline – **0800 80 70 60**

Did you know?

- Twenty one species of whales dolphins and porpoises have been recorded in Scotland including the basking shark.
- More than 160 species of fish occur in the inland and coastal waters of Scotland.
- Each summer, almost 6 million seabirds nest on Scotland's sea cliffs.

Advice

- Keep a good pair of binoculars to hand – by keeping your noise down you may even see breeding birds in Spring
- When you go ashore, use recognised landing places.
- Small craft like personal watercraft, canoes and ribs can reach shallow, more sensitive areas. Avoid stirring up the bottom unduly, or disturbing vegetation and wildlife.
- Slow down if you are creating excessive wash – it can erode banks, disturb nesting birds and damage sensitive vegetation.
- When you spot whales, dolphins and porpoises keep a constant speed and direction to avoid surprising or startling the animals
- Tell others what you have seen and help keep accurate records by reporting your sightings.
- Find out whether the areas you visit are protected, and why. There may be vulnerable seabed species, so beware of dragging your anchor.

Useful information

Learn how to watch wildlife responsibly with the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code – www.marinecode.org

Get the hard facts on wider nature conservation issues from the Scottish Natural Heritage website – www.snh.org.uk

Take a course to get the most out of watching wildlife from your boat – www.wisescheme.org.uk

Report sightings of whales and dolphins to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society – www.wdcs.org.uk

Identify those birds with the online guide at RSPB – www.rspb.org.uk

Find out about protection of marine wildlife through the Marine Conservation Society – www.mcsuk.org.uk

Did you know?

- Detergents containing phosphates can cause local oxygen depletions and may result in the localised suffocation of aquatic life.
- Products used on boat hulls and decks may contain chlorine, ammonia, potassium hydroxide and solvents, all harmful to the aquatic environment.
- Degreasers dry the natural oils that fish need for their gills to take in oxygen.
- Most cleaning products contain chemicals which disrupt the reproductive cycle of fish.

Advice

- Choose more environmentally sensitive products avoiding chlorine and bleach products which can be toxic to flora and fauna, and phosphates which encourage algal growth.
- The key is choosing products which avoid these chemicals.
- Use fresh water or non-toxic solutions to clean your boat wherever possible – see the list of alternatives on the Green Blue website.
- Waxing your hull keeps you fuel efficient and reduces the need for cleaning products over the season.
- Minimise use of soaps and detergents used in onboard sinks, showers and washing machines. Your sink on the boat needs to be treated differently to those in your home.
- If using a washing machine on board, switch to a detergent-free washball, or use less ecologically damaging washing powders – particularly important in inland waterways.

Useful information

Download a guidebook and find out more about sustainable procurement from www.cannybuyer.com

The **Green Blue** website lists alternative cleaning products. See www.thegreenblue.org.uk for our product directory and product reviews.

Did you know?

- Topside and antifouling paints and varnish including used brushes, rollers and trays are now classified as hazardous waste.
- Anti-fouling paints work by releasing toxic chemicals into the water. They are regulated as pesticides.
- Copper biocides in anti-fouling are toxic to water fleas, dragonfly and fish larvae, and cause contamination to be passed up the food chain.

Advice

- The key is to prevent anti-fouling from unnecessarily entering the water. Skirt the hull and use a tarpaulin. Don't leave a coloured patch under your boat!
- If you use scrubbing piles, only scrub off the fouling and not residue paint – be careful not to let old or new paint enter the water.
- Select a marina, club or boatyard which has a 'scrub-off' facility which collects residues and wash down.
- Select the right type of antifouling for your area and boat usage – take advice from your chandlery. Use water-based paints where possible which are low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds).
- Look into environmentally friendly bottom paints, such as vinyl or silicone which are suitable for in-water hull cleaning systems.
- Apply the right amount of antifouling required and do not spill it – when applying use a sheet to collect drips.

Useful information

Find out recommendations and regulations from The Scottish Environment Protection Agency – www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/guidance/ppg/ppg14.pdf

A useful website with expert advice straight from the manufacturers can be found at www.boatpaint.co.uk

Read about the potential effects of antifouling in the marine environment at www.ukmarinesacs.org.uk/activities/recreation/r03_03.htm

Did you know?

- It is estimated that globally over a million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles die every year from entanglement, or ingestion of plastics.
- A survey of 42 harbour authorities reported that £26,100 is spent per year in some ports to clear fouled propellers and remove debris from the water.
- Rubbish can take a surprisingly long time to degrade. A tin can will survive 50 years under water, an aluminium can 80-100 years and glass bottles up to 1000 years.
- Disposal of hazardous waste costs 36 times as much as general waste.

Advice

- Do not throw anything over the side – if by accident you do – practice those man-overboard drills to retrieve it.
- Cigarette ends can harm birds and last up to 5 years. Smokers should keep a small tin in their pocket to stub out and keep butt ends.
- Invest in starch-based rubbish bags for short trips. They break down in 12-18 months rather than 20 years plus for regular plastic bags.
- Prevent plastic bags, drinks cans and loose items from blowing overboard. Remove excess packaging and recycle it at home.
- Use recycling facilities at marinas, clubs and harbour authorities – it's the same quantity of waste just a little more effort.
- Where possible, reduce waste, a simple one is to refill water bottles.
- Make sure you don't cause general waste to be classed as 'Hazardous' by throwing items in the wrong container, including paint tins, oily rags and old electronic instruments.

Useful information

To find out where waste is disposed of near you visit www.sepa.org.uk

Facts and figures from beach clean ups and surveys can be found at www.adoptabeach.org.uk

Recycling and waste reduction advice available from www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk

Download a list of hazardous waste at www.thegreenblue.org.uk Clubs and marinas should download the RYA/BMF's *Guide to Port Waste*

Did you know?

- Effects of global warming such as sea level rise and more extreme weather conditions will occur within the lifetime of our children.
- Increased flood risk will cause loss of water side facilities, damage to existing facilities and raise insurance prices.
- The 2012 Olympic Games will be the first with 'zero-waste' and low carbon policies.

Advice

- Be prepared for climate change and safeguard local boating facilities by getting involved in shoreline and coastal management planning. See the RYA guidance note for more information.
- There are a mass of alternatives available to those who look – electric or biodiesel engines, water lubricated stern glands, even alternative fuels like vegetable oils.
- When buying a new craft, or new products for your craft, purchase with resource efficiency, emissions and ability to be recycle in mind. You can even request the environmental policies of boating businesses or manufacturers prior to making purchasing decisions.
- Consider VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) emissions – particularly from hull materials and paints.
- Make certain wood is sources from responsibly managed forests e.g. accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle – what is waste to you may be useful to someone else – boat jumbles are good ways to pass on second hand goods.
- Keep your hull clean, engine running efficiently and learn to trim the engine to minimise fuel consumption.

Useful information

For advice about sustainable resource use, visit www.sustainable-scotland.net and www.forward-scotland.org.uk

The Carbon Trust makes business sense of climate change www.thecarbontrust.co.uk

Join the celebrities and become carbon neutral www.futureforests.com

Find out where you can fill up on biodiesel: www.biodieselfillingstations.co.uk

Did you know?

- Untreated sewage discharged from boats can spread gastroenteritis, contaminate shell fish beds and deplete vital oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic life depend on.
- Human waste contains phosphorous and nitrogen which are nutrients for plant growth, increasing levels of algae and reducing water clarity.
- Chemicals such as chlorine, formaldehyde, ammonium and zinc compounds used to disinfect, breakdown and deodorise waste are toxic to marine life.

Advice

- Only use sea toilets in the open sea, well away from land where waste will be quickly diluted and dispersed by wave actions and currents. Only empty holding tanks more than 3 miles offshore.
- In areas of poor flushing such as estuaries, inland waterways, inlets and marinas, make use of shore side facilities, holding tanks and pump out facilities or a portable toilet.
- Chemical toilets use toxic substances and should only be emptied ashore into the regular sewage system. Plan ahead as they can be difficult to carry and few pump out facilities will accept chemical toilet waste.
- In marinas, use shore side facilities and brief your crew to do likewise.
- When visiting new sites, give consideration to the environmental sensitivity of the area before using your sea toilet.
- Boats manufactured outside the UK may not have the correct ISO fittings for UK pump out stations.

Useful information

The prevention of pollution by sewage from ships is regulated by Annex IV of MARPOL see www.imo.org/home.asp

The RYA Marina guide and most good pilot guides and almanacs have details on the location of sewage pump out facilities – www.rya.org.uk/marinas/

A map showing locations of Special Areas of Conservation can be found at www.ukmarinesacs.org.uk

To find out if you can reduce your environmental impact – visit our website www.thegreenblue.org.uk There is practical advice, case studies and information on green products to help you save money, protect water quality and habitats and, ultimately, safeguard the future of boating.

Find out more and register for a free Green Blue sticker at www.thegreenblue.org.uk
Information | Practical Projects |
Research | Product Reviews |