

# A BOATER'S GUIDE TO HANDLING OIL AND FUEL SPILLS

Know what to do in the event of an accidental spill.

## BE PREPARED



**MAINTAIN** your boat's engine, making sure that fuel lines are attached and undamaged. Faulty lines are the source of many small spills.

**TAKE CARE** when fueling. Accidents can occur due to missing or overfilling the tank or hands-free fueling clips not operating correctly. Use a fuel vent catch device and fuel nozzle bib to collect any accidental overflow when fueling.

**PROTECT** yourself in the event of an oil or fuel leak while boating. Turn off electricity to prevent sparking and always have a fire extinguisher on board. Avoid inhaling fumes and keep gloves available if you must handle toxic chemicals.

### Soak it, don't soap it!

Absorbent pads remove oil safely. Never use household detergents, as they harm aquatic life and can incur large fines.



**PURCHASE** oil absorbent cleanup materials at boating stores and keep on board to prevent and contain spills.



Oil absorbent booms, sheets (bottom), and pads can be kept on your boat to catch leaks under the engine or to contain and remove oil at the surface of the water (back). Bilge socks (top) trap any oily overflow on board, making safe disposal easy. (MASGC/Tara Skelton)

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A SPILL

**ALERT** the authorities. If you see a spill, you are encouraged to notify both the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center and the state agency of any spill. By law, you must notify if you are responsible for the spill.

**SOAK UP** oil from the water using the cleanup materials described on the previous page.

**STORE** all used oil and oily absorbent materials in a closed container labeled “Used Oil.”

**DISPOSE** of used oil and oily absorbent materials at authorized locations:

- Some businesses like supercenters, oil change stations, and other types of automotive centers take used oil.
- Local governments often host regional “Household Hazardous Waste Day” events.



After alerting the authorities, use the oil-absorbing products you have on board to remove toxic chemicals from the water (above). If it is a smaller spill, officials may tell you to clean it yourself to the best of your ability. If larger, they may send help. By law, all waste oil, including oiled absorbent materials, must be disposed of safely in designated locations (right).



<http://glsicrudeoiltransport.org>

## MAKE THE CALL

Report all spills to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at **1-800-424-8802** and to the state hotline.

ILLINOIS:	1-800-782-7860
INDIANA:	1-888-233-7745
LAKE CHAMPLAIN:	1-800-641-5005
MICHIGAN:	1-800-306-6837
MINNESOTA:	1-800-422-0798
NEW YORK:	1-800-457-7362
OHIO:	1-800-282-9278
PENNSYLVANIA:	1-800-424-8802
WISCONSIN:	1-800-943-0003

## LOCATE AN OIL DISPOSAL SITE

Go to the following website to find out where in your community to dispose of used oil.

**EARTH 911** — <http://search.earth911.com>  
Use the search term ‘motor oil’ and your zip code to find the nearest oil recycling location.



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