Boat Building, Maintenance, and Repair

This activity group applies to mobile operations, onshore repair facilities, and on-water fueling and repair operations that are not covered in other activity categories. The variety of practices grouped into this activity can collectively contaminate stormwater and surface water bodies with toxic organic compounds, oils and greases, metals, nutrients, suspended solids, and abnormal pH. All boatyards are required to be covered under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general or individual permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology. The BMPs discussed below are similar to those listed in the NPDES Permit and apply to areas not covered by an NPDES permit.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices, are required if you are engaged in boat building, mooring, maintenance, and repair; and you are not covered by an NPDES Permit for Boat Building and Repair Facilities:

1. Move maintenance and repair activities onshore if possible. This action reduces some of the potential for direct pollution of water bodies.

2. Shelter any blasting and spray painting activities by hanging wind blocking tarps to prevent dust and overspray from escaping.

3. Use ground cloths or drip pans for collection of drips and spills in painting, maintenance, repair, and finishing activities.

4. Collect bilge and ballast water that has an oily sheen on the surface. Properly dispose of it rather than dumping it in surface waters or on land.

☞ See BMP Info Sheet 2 in Chapter 5 for information on disposal options. Several companies are available for bilge pump-out services. The problem can possibly be avoided if oil-absorbent pads are used to capture the oil in the bilge water before pumping. If pads are used, they must be recycled or properly disposed of.

5. To avoid spilling directly in surface water bodies, perform paint and solvent mixing, fuel mixing, and similar handling of liquids on-shore. Clean up spills immediately. Do not wash spills to a storm drain or surface waters.

6. Collect and properly dispose of wash water from washing painted boat hulls. Consider taking the boat to a local boat yard that is equipped to collect and treat the wash water. Never dispose of wash water containing soap or other chemicals to storm drains or surface waters. It is acceptable to wash a boat using only water.

7. Required Routine Maintenance:

   - Store and maintain appropriate spill cleanup materials in a location known to all. Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.
   - Sweep maintenance yard areas, docks and boat ramps as needed to collect sandblasting material, paint chips, oils, and other loose debris. Properly dispose of these collected materials. Do not hose down the area to the water or to a storm drain.

ADDITIONAL BMPs

The following BMPs are optional unless the above minimum required BMPs do not provide adequate source control:

1. Boat construction and structural repair activities should be covered.

2. A tarp should be placed above the water surface underneath the work area on boats or docks to collect drips, spills, paint chips, and loose solids when work is performed over water.

3. All used oil and oil filters should be recycled. Most marinas now offer used oil recycling services.

4. No soaps or detergents of any kind should be used to wash the topsides or hulls of boats where the wash water will enter surface waters.

5. Use sanders that have dust containment bags.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.