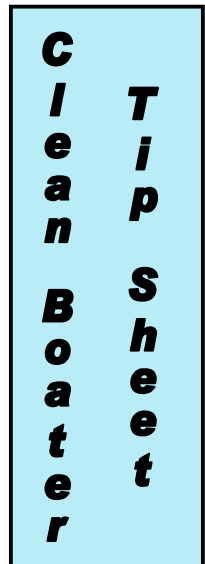


Hull Paint

Antifoulant coatings on boat hulls are another toxic threat to marine life. These coatings contain compounds such as copper that kill marine organisms that grow on the underside of a boat. These coatings, especially ablative (a.k.a. soft, self-polishing, or sloughing) coatings, also release toxic compounds into the water. Hard antifouling coatings have extended antifouling properties, but limit the amount of toxic metals leached into the water. Hard coatings also release less material into the water when they are cleaned.

Maintain your Hull Wisely

- Consider alternatives to toxic sloughing bottom paints.
 - Some good alternatives are silicon, polyurethane, Teflon, and other hard antifouling coatings.
 - These alternatives rely on a slick surface to discourage the growth of marine organisms rather than killing them.
- If boat has a sloughing paint coat, do not clean the boat bottom while in the water – this creates a discharge of toxic paint chips in the water. Only clean running gear and anodes.
- Clean boat bottoms ashore over hard surfaces or a tarp, where all debris can be contained.
- Wait 90 days to clean a newly painted hull, as it will release more toxins when new.
- Consider storing your boat out of the water to prevent fouling.
- Do hull work inside or under cover where rain can't wash dirt, dust, oil, or solvents into the water.
- Use a dust-less or vacuum sander, or a drop cloth to collect all paint chips, dust, and residue. Dispose in regular trash.



Vessel Bottom Work



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