

SOLID WASTE (TRASH & MARINE DEBRIS)

Applicability

This section applies to all marinas.

Background

The day-to-day activities of marina patrons and the marina itself can generate substantial amounts of solid waste. A few examples include bottles, cans, plastic bags, paper bags, food containers, cigarette filters, fishing line and polystyrene bait containers. Items such as discarded fishing line or plastic rings used to hold soda cans or bottles together can injure wildlife living

within or near the marina through entanglement or ingestion. Ghost fishing, the entanglement of fish and wildlife, is a serious threat. Some of today's advanced fishing lines take a long time to break down in the environment. Waterfowl may become tangled in discarded line, often resulting in injury or death. Plastic bags and fishing line can be costly to boaters. These plastics can snare propellers and clog engine intake systems. Not only can marine debris be an eyesore, it can also harm patrons. Broken glass or fishing lures can cut or puncture the feet of swimmers. By providing sufficient waste receptacles, much of this litter can be kept out of the marina's basin or adjacent waterways.



Trash in the marina environment is unsightly and can injure wildlife.

Existing Federal and State Laws

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources regulates the disposal of waste near a lake and prohibits the disposal of contaminants or waste within 15 feet of a lake or in a floodway. It is illegal to discharge waste, oil, trash or other toxic substances into Indiana state waters under IC 14-15-2-8 during the operation or use of watercraft.

SOLID WASTE (TRASH & MARINE DEBRIS)

The MARPOL (Marine Pollution) treaty is an international law that has been adopted by the United States. Annex V of the treaty is aimed toward protecting navigable waters from trash. The treaty makes it illegal to discharge any garbage, including plastic, paper, rags, glass, food, crockery, metal or dunnage (lining and packing materials that float) in the navigable waters of the United States and in all waters, within three nautical miles of the nearest land. The discharge of garbage is prohibited in the Great Lakes and their connecting or tributary waters.

The MARPOL treaty also requires any boat over 26 feet to display a placard at least 4 inches by 9 inches notifying passengers and crew about garbage restrictions.

Most every patron recycles in their daily lives, be it at home or at work. Recycling is also important at marinas. Much of the garbage produced at marinas is the same as household trash, including glass, plastic, paper and metal. Over the past 15 years, the use of marina shrink wrap to cover boats during the winter seasons has increased dramatically. Marina shrink wrap presents a disposal concern and a recycling opportunity. Shrink wrap is not biodegradable, and it can become a disposal problem at landfills. In the landfill, it consumes capacity and is wasteful because it is only used once. There is an opportunity to recycle shrink wrap because it is a high quality plastic for which markets are readily available.



Shrink wrap used for winter storage can be recycled.

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Best Management Practices

Marinas can implement these best management practices to control solid waste.

- Place trash receptacles in convenient locations around the marina for patrons to use, such as on each gangway. Select high-traffic areas near boat launches and bathrooms, by vending machines, near the dog walk area, and along the path to the parking lot. Make sure the receptacles are secured wherever there is a possibility they may be inadvertently tossed or blown into the water. Provide lighting in these areas.
- If possible, utilize covered receptacles to reduce pest issues. Make sure to empty the containers frequently. Inspect the areas daily to make sure the containers are not full or that garbage was not placed next to it.
- Instruct patrons on proper garbage protocol. Have them practice trash in, trash out. Remind them that plastic bags blow and that they should use recyclable containers and reusable bags. Ask them to cut the rings of six pack holders prior to disposal. Post signs to educate boaters on the location and use of the containers.
- Place recycling bins for glass, plastic and metal cans next to each garbage can. Contact your trash hauler or local solid waste management district about setting up a recycling program. Have the recycling bins be of a different color or shape than the garbage cans to better identify them.
- Recycle winter storage shrink wrap.
- Promote used fishing line collection for recycling or proper disposal.



Trash and recycling bins are placed adjacent to each other for convenience.



A recycling hauler collects shrink wrap from Trail Creek Marina in Michigan City.

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- Use a pool skimmer or fish landing net to pick up floating debris that collects within the basin.



A fisherman recycles fishing line to prevent entanglement of fish and wildlife. The homemade recycling bin was installed near the docks.



An employee of Washington Park Marina in Michigan City skims the basin to collect floating debris.