



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 029 Trenton, NJ 08625-0029
Phone: (609) 292-0407 / Fax: (609) 984-2147

MARK N. MAURIELLO
Commissioner

Rinsing/Washing of Boats at Marinas

It has been brought to the Department's attention that there are times when a boat owner may want to wash or rinse their boats at a marina. The Department has existing policy in the Basic Industrial Stormwater General Permit Guidance Document – Marina Edition (http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/Marina_final_guidance_color.pdf) that deals with the rinsing and washing of boats in their slips. The policy is on the bottom of page 8 of the guidance document and is as follows:

Washing of Boats in Water

“... boat owners may rinse their boats in their slips. The Department would prefer that boaters avoid using detergents. However, if the boater must use a cleaning product it should be non-toxic and biodegradable, and should not cause foaming in the water. Marina owners should educate their boaters of this policy and include language in the slip rental agreement regarding this issue.”

Washing of Boats at the Marina – Boat Owners

Another situation is when boat owners prepare their boats in the spring prior to them being put in the water. Boat owners routinely wash and wax the boats and do routine maintenance before launching. The Department will allow individual boat owners to rinse or wash the hulls of their boats at a marina if:

- the rinsing or washing is done over a pervious surface (grass, gravel, dirt);
- the wash water does not flow into surface waters or storm sewers;
- they use only non-toxic and biodegradable cleaning products;
- there is no washing or power washing of a painted boat bottom or hull (the boat bottom should only be power washed by a marina with a system to manage the wash water); and
- they do not rinse or wash any exposed motors or machinery.

If a marina owner allows boat owners to perform other maintenance at the marina, the marina owner needs to ensure that those activities do not impact store water runoff quality and that hazardous materials like solvents and motor oil and lubricants are properly disposed.

Rinsing of Boats at the Marina – Marina Owners

In addition, marina owners often need to rinse hulls prior to waxing and launching for customers in the spring. Marina owners may rinse boats with clean water only if:

- the rinsing or washing is done over a pervious surface (grass, gravel, dirt);
- the wash water does not flow into surface waters or storm sewers;
- they do not use any detergents or cleaning products cleaning products;
- there is no washing or power washing of a painted boat bottom or hull (the boat bottom should only be power washed by a marina with a system to manage the wash water); and
- they do not rinse or wash any exposed motors or machinery.

Washing of Boats and Boat Bottoms at the Marina – Marina Owners

May only be done in a manner where boat wash water is properly managed to eliminate any discharge of wash water to the surface or ground waters of the State.