



## Clean Boater Guide

# Clean Fueling

One quart of spilled oil can create a slick over two acres in size. The cumulative effect of small spills can have serious effects on the marine environment. Improper fueling and inefficient two-stroke engines contribute to gasoline and oil entering our waterways.

### Follow these tips for Clean Fueling:

#### Before Fueling

- Know how much fuel your tank holds
- Turn off engine and electronics.
- No smoking while fueling.
- Fill portable tanks on shore.
- Have passengers exit the boat as a safety precaution while fueling.
- Use oil absorbant pads, socks or booms in your boat's bilge.
- Keep engine well-tuned. Change oil filters often.
- Use a drip pan for engine work.
- Avoid pumping bilge water that is oily or has a sheen.



#### During Fueling

- Have absorbant cloths and pads available when fueling to catch small drips.
- Use a splash-absorbing fuel collar to catch drops from the fuel nozzle.
- Attend the fuel nozzle at all times. Do not use a hands-free clip!
- Fuel slowly and carefully. Listen for a gurgling sound before the tank is full.
- Catch fuel back splash by putting a spill collection bottle under the fuel tank vent.
- Run your boat's blower for a few minutes after fueling.
- If you use your boat infrequently, add fuel stabilizer to the tank.
- Use your hand to check for air escaping from the vent. When the tank is nearly full, you'll feel an increase in airflow.
- Fuel expands as it heats up. Fill to 90% capacity instead of topping off to avoid spills.



#### After Fueling

- If fuel spills on the dock, wipe it up; don't hose it off into the water.
- If fuel spills in the water, do not disperse with soap or detergent. Detergent is toxic to marine life, spreads the problem and is a violation of federal law.
- If a spill occurs in a marina, notify marina management.
- Give soiled rags and used oil to the marina operator for proper disposal or recycling.



**Any fuel spill resulting in a sheen is ILLEGAL!!! By law, any sheen must be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.**