

Controlling Vessel Discharges

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Vessel Maintenance Activities

Debris from vessel maintenance activities performed over unprotected water can result in detergents, heavy metals, oils and greases, toxic substances, sediments, and other pollutants that fall directly into Harbors water.

Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the harbor during hull maintenance activities is a violation of the Clean Water Act. Proper employee training, BMP implementation, and pollution prevention methods are required for compliance with the Clean Water Act and to protect waters under Harbors jurisdiction. Maintenance activities include:

- Painting
- Grinding and Chipping
- Using chemicals for rust and paint removal
- Washing exterior surfaces (with or without chemicals)
- Engine repair

BMP Implementation

Primary Option: Perform vessel maintenance activities while vessel is in dry dock, slipway or haul-out facility, or outside of waters under the jurisdiction of Harbors Division.

Secondary Options:

- Use anti-foulant paints with less toxic ingredients.
- Never use anti-foulant paint containing Tributyltin (TBT). Anti-foulant paints and other compounds containing TBT are prohibited for use throughout the United States.
- Install a tarpaulin or other containment device underneath all painting, grinding, or chipping activities. Properly dispose of all captured debris removed from hull.
- Never use chemicals such as Naval Jelly (Phosphoric Acid) for rust or paint removal while vessel is still afloat.
- Never use any compounds that contain Tetrachloroethylene (TCE) for hull maintenance.
- Maintain the hull and all exterior surfaces more frequently to prevent the build-up of rust, marine growth, and aquatic nuisance species (invasive species).
- Wash exterior surfaces with fresh water only. Contain all wash water and properly dispose in a shore-based sanitary sewer. Low pressure (<100psi) washing only. Never use detergents or other chemicals while washing.
- Cleaning with dry methods (sweeping, vacuuming, or damp mopping) is preferred.

*The EPA has issued a draft **Small Vessel General Permit**. If finalized, it would authorize discharges incidental to the normal operation of **non-military and non-recreational vessels less than 79 feet in length and commercial fishing vessels**. The draft permit specifies best management practices for several broad discharge management categories including **fuel management, engine and oil control, solid and liquid maintenance, gray water management, fish hold effluent management, and ballast water management**.*

*Implementation Date:
December 18, 2013*

Here is the website for more info:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/vessels/vgpermit.cfm>