

Marina and Shore-Side Facility Owners

If you are looking to provide a sewage pump out facility at your location then please contact the Department of Environment & Natural Resources to discuss how a shore-side pump-out facility or mobile sewage pump-out system can be operated and connected to a sewer main, septic tank and disposal borehole or collect & hold tank.

Risks of Sewage Discharge

Sewage from boats can be a health hazard to bathers in popular boating areas. Furthermore, it compromises the health, biodiversity and aesthetics of Bermuda's marine environment. The 'twin pillars' of Bermuda's economy are its international business and tourism industries, both of which are dependent on Bermuda maintaining a pristine environment.

The addition of sewage to shallow, near-shore marine environments can cause dissolved oxygen concentrations to drop. This effect can be more significant in enclosed water bodies and is one of the potential causes of fish-kills or fish die-offs generally observed over the hotter months in Bermuda.

Other Sources of Pollution from Recreational Boats

Bilgewater: Fuels and oils within the bilgewater are sometimes pumped into the sea from automatically-operated bilgewater pumps. Using oil adsorbent materials firmly attached within the bilge can help prevent this. Government is committed to the use of oil adsorbent materials by removing importation duty on them (CPC 4195). Used oil absorbents should be disposed of in your general household trash or taken directly to the Tynes Bay Waste to Energy facility.

Zinc Anodes and Batteries: Properly dispose of zinc anodes and batteries at the designated sites in the marina or at the Tynes Bay public drop off facility.

Reporting Pollution

If you notice anything unusual, such as dead fish, oil slick or suspected sewage discharge in the near-shore, or if you observe anyone violating these guidelines, please notify Bermuda Radio at 297-1010 or the Department of Environment & Natural Resources as soon as possible. If possible, please take photographs of the observed issue. Your report will be treated in strict confidence.

Contact Details

For more information, to discuss this document, to log a complaint or to report an observed incident of sewage or oil being discharged from a boat, please contact the Department of Environment & Natural Resources at:

Email: PollutionControl@gov.bm

Tel: 239-2303 or 239-2356 or 239-2318



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Home Affairs

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 2018

SEWAGE MANAGEMENT for Boat Owners



Regulated Sewage Management for Boaters

The Water Resources (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Boats) Regulations 2018 (BR83/2018) came into force in August 2018.

These Regulations **apply to recreational boats, liveaboards, charter boats and all other boats that sail or motor in and around Bermuda.** The Regulations provide for No-Discharge Zones for sewage discharge, require educational notices to be attached next to the toilet and require over-board discharge valves to be in the 'Closed' position when moored or anchored within the No-Discharge Zones.

Other boats and ships engaged in international voyages and registered to carry more than 15 persons, **or** of 400GT or greater, shall abide by the *Bermuda Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2015 (BR44/2015)* and shall not discharge untreated sewage within 12 nautical miles of the nearest land.

The Department of Environment & Natural Resources is responsible for ensuring all persons, including boat owners and boat users, do not pollute or foul seawater. In Bermuda, any person who interferes with, pollutes or fouls any public water (including seawater), commits an offence punishable under the Water Resources Act 1975 (Section 34) and also under Section 7 of the Regulations.



What do I do with my boat sewage?

You may only discharge sewage overboard when outside of the **No-Discharge Zones**. The No-Discharge-Zones are shown in Figure 1. Sewage may only be discharged beyond 500 metres (1,640ft) from the nearest point of land and outside of the more enclosed areas of the Great Sound, Little Sound, Harrington Sound and Castle, Hamilton and St George's Harbours, and Fisheries Protected areas.

- Boats with Toilet and Holding Tank**
 When in No-Discharge Zones the toilet shall be connected directly to the holding tank (i.e. not in bypass) and any over-board discharge valve shall be in the 'closed' position. Holding tanks shall be emptied at shore-side or mobile pump-out facilities or when outside the No-Discharge Zones.
- Boats with Fixed Toilet(s) ONLY (i.e No holding tank)**
 Only use the toilet when outside of the No-Discharge Zones. Alternatively, for use in near-shore waters add a 'Porta-Potty' to collect and hold the sewage instead of using a fixed toilet. 'Porta-Potties' may be emptied at shore-side or mobile facilities, at home or when outside of the No-Discharge Zones.

Options for disposing of sewage

The sewage pump out options for boat owners include marinas, shore-side pump out to sanitation trucks and transiting outside of the No-Discharge Zones to pump directly overboard (See below).

Pump Out Option/Facility *	Contact	Comment
Hamilton Princess Marina	705-7431, VHF Ch.#74	Two pump-out stations. For its customers only.
Royal Hamilton Amateur Dingy Club (RHADC)	538-0050, VHF Ch.#73	Saturdays 10am to 1pm for the public. Anytime for its customers.
Caroline Bay Marina	542-0008, VHF Ch.#72	For the public and its customers.
Pier 41 Marina, Dockyard	238-4141	Portable unit located at the marina for its customers only.
Shore-side sanitation trucks will pump-out from the boat to shore (various companies)		
Transit outside of No-Discharge Zone areas to discharge boat sewage to the sea.		

 **No-Discharge Zones for sewage**

 **500 metres from high water mark**

Areas Not Shown: Refer to Fisheries (Protected Areas) Order 2000

Seacock valve from the head, holding tank or sewage treatment plant shall remain closed when the boat/vessel is located within the 'No-Discharge Zones', including Fisheries Protected Areas

