



# Safer Choice: Boating & Marinas

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Voluntary Program

## Protecting Our Aquatic Environment with Certified Green Cleaning

Products used by boat owners and marina operators to clean boats can potentially cause harm to the aquatic environment if care is not taken during their use. Some cleaning products contain harsh chemicals such as chlorine, ammonia, and phosphates that can harm fish and wildlife. But when it comes to identifying alternatives, it's hard to know which ones contain safer ingredients. That's why the EPA created the Safer Choice Certification — to help find products made with ingredients that are safer for our families, and the environment.



*Green cleaning products typically do not carry any cost premium. They have become*



*essentially cost neutral due to both increased competition in the green cleaning chemicals market, and to their own efficiency. A smaller quantity*

## Where to find Safer Products

Safer products can be identified through third party certification programs, such as EPA's Safer Choice Program. Products that carry the Safer Choice label have been carefully evaluated and meet strict safety criteria for both human health and the environment.

About 2,000 products qualify to carry the Safer Choice label and include a wide range of products such as:

- All-purpose cleaners
- Boat cleaners
- Degreasers
- Outdoor furniture cleaners
- Wood cleaners

For the full list of products, visit: [www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products).



## Indiana's CLEAN Marina Program



Indiana's Clean Marina Program was developed in an effort to protect the state's inland and coastal waterways by reducing the potential environmental impacts associated with marinas and recreational boating. For more information, visit IDEM's website: <https://in.gov/idem/cleanmarina>.

Under the Program, certified green cleaning is recognized as a checklist item under "Boat Cleaning" and points are available for "providing education materials to patrons that promote environmentally-friendly boat cleaning practices."

## Best Management Practices

Recreational boaters and marina operators can implement these best management practices while cleaning boats:

- Avoid using caustic cleaners such as bleach, ammonia or lye. Do not use petroleum-based cleaning products.
- If possible, use cleaning products that are environmentally friendly (e.g., non-toxic or phosphate-free). Always follow the instructions on the label. Beware of biodegradable cleaners that may still be toxic.
- Keep your boat waxed. A good coat of wax will prevent surface dirt from being ingrained in the hull and makes your boat easier to clean later.