

What is the Clean Vessel Act?

The **Clean Vessel Act** deals with the overboard discharge of sewage from boats. The US Congress established the **Clean Vessel Act** in 1992 to provide states with funds to educate the public about the consequences of discharging sewage, as well as to provide federal aid for marinas for up to 75% of the approved costs of pumpouts.

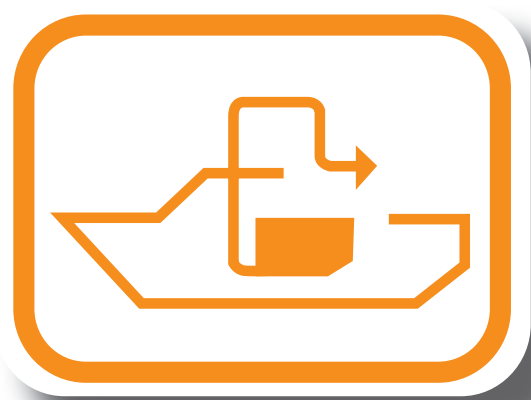
Why worry about your waste?

- Sewage decreases dissolved oxygen levels causing fish kills as well as other aquatic life mortalities.
- Sewage causes waterborne diseases, such as typhoid, cholera, gastroenteritis, bacillary dysentery, and hepatitis.
- Shellfish become contaminated from ingesting sewage, which humans, in turn, eat and then contract fecal contaminants and disease.
- Sewage acts as a fertilizer and increases algal growth, which blocks needed sunlight for important nursery vegetation for young fish.
- Floating sewage ruins your outdoor experience!

It is illegal for houseboats to discharge treated or untreated sewage into freshwater. It is also illegal to discharge in a No Discharge Zone (NDZ).

No Discharge Zones, in South Carolina included: Broad Creek (Hilton Head Island), Lake Hartwell, Lake Keowee, Lake Murray, Lake Thurmond, and Lake Wylie.

To prevent the possible dangers that sewage can cause to humans and the environmental, boaters should use portable toilets, utilize onshore restrooms, or have a Marine Sanitation Device installed on board and use a pumpout at a local marina.



**KEEP OUR
WATER CLEAN-
USE PUMPOUTS**



For Further Information About the Clean Vessel Act and How to Obtain Federal Aid for a pumpout Contact **Lorianne Riggin** at **RigginL@dnr.sc.gov**