

PUMPING OUT SEWAGE



Pumping sewage out of boats may expose you to infectious agents including contaminated water. It is very important to take all safety precautions possible when completing this task.

Hazard: Accidental Drowning

Details

- Possibility of slipping off the dock into the water

Threat

- Death

Safe Work Guidelines

- Ensure that the boat being pumped is securely moored to the dock
- If you are a non-swimmer, try to avoid working on the dock; if this is not possible, wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and a signaling device (e.g., whistle) while working on the dock
- On windy days, even if you can swim, wear a PFD while working on the dock

- Make sure that at least one other employee can see you clearly while you are working on the dock

Hazard: Bacteria-contaminated Water

Details

- Sewage and human excrement can contaminate water with bacteria

Threat

- Illnesses, such as diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis, salmonella
- Environmental contamination

Safe Work Guidelines

Before you Start

- Ensure that all marina staff who pump sewage are trained in the requirements of Regulation 343, Discharge of Sewage from Pleasure Boats under the Ontario Water Resources Act; this regulation requires blackwater to be pumped out of boats using a pump-out facility
- **Do not** use the drinking water supply hose to clean the holding tank
- Mark suction and washout hoses and their storage position clearly to identify their purpose
- Ensure that the wash water hose has a sign stating “not a drinking water supply”
- Make sure that all adaptors and connections between the boat and the pump are joined securely before you start pumping
- Check pipes from the pump-out station regularly for damage and leaks

- Check the oil level of the pump frequently as part of your preventive maintenance schedule
- Keep a bucket of water and a sponge on hand to clean up small spills

While you are Working

- Open the deck fitting called ‘waste’ slowly to allow any pressure to release gradually
- **Do not** dump waste material into the lake; it is strictly prohibited to dispose of both treated and untreated sewage in lakes
- **Do not** walk away from the boat or pump-out controls until the pumping is finished
- Ask the boat owner to flush water through the head to clear the lines

After you Finish

- Disconnect the suction hose but do not allow it to dangle in the lake
- Hold the hose with its opening up to avoid spillage and dripping
- **Do not** clean the hose in the lake; clean it in a bucket of water
- Clean adaptors in a bucket of water containing a mild disinfectant
- After pumping, wash your hands with an anti-bacterial soap or rinse

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