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## MARINAS & SMALL BOAT HARBORS

A quick guide to essential pollution prevention (P2) information for marinas, with a compilation of the best available on-line resources.

### Why P2 for Marinas?

A marina is defined as a facility that rents slips to tenants. Marinas are most commonly used as a place to store boats and other watercrafts when not in use. Other services typically conducted at marinas include cleaning, paint removal, painting, engine maintenance, fueling, storage, winterization, and pump-out stations (sewage). If not monitored or maintained properly, these operations could discharge pollutants to the water and land.

### How Can Marina Operators and Tenants Prevent Pollution?

There are a wide variety of pollution prevention techniques and best management practices that can be utilized by marinas and boat harbors. Here are just a few:

- Boat Cleaning – support the use of environmentally compatible or “green” cleaners (sometimes even pressure-washing will suffice); contain and properly dispose of cleaners and cleaning residue.
- Painting – use brushers or rollers instead of spray guns or try the High Volume Low Pressure (HVLV) sprayers to minimize impacts.
- Sanding and Blasting – use vacuum sanders to collect both paint and dust and do this in a contained area to prevent dust from settling in the water or becoming airborne.

### Best P2 Resources at Your Fingertips

Topic Hubs are peer-reviewed on-line primers that include background and operational information plus specific opportunities for pollution prevention. They include an extensive list of links for the “best of the best” on-line resources: manuals, checklists, fact sheets, case studies, etc. The Marinas & Small Boat Harbors Topic Hub also provides links to national marina programs and information on assistance activities going on in the northeast (Regions 1 and 2).

Topic Hubs are valuable resources for P2 programs, regulators, environmental managers, and industry. P2Rx centers have more than 55 Topic Hubs available on a wide range of issues covering many industrial sectors. Check them out at [www.p2rx.org/hubs](http://www.p2rx.org/hubs).

### Did You Know?

- Chemicals and detergents used to clean boats can destroy natural oils on the fish's gills and interfere with a fish's ability to breathe properly.
- Paints, thinners, and the solvents used to remove old paint from boats may result in the release of toxic metals, such as copper and tin, which can increase cancer risk to exposed workers.
- Spilled gasoline and fuel oil can float on the water's surface, inhibiting light penetration and oxygen exchange necessary for aquatic life.
- The high occupancy rates that typically result from a reputation as a distinguished “clean marina” will more than offset the cost of P2.

**View the complete  
Marinas & Small  
Boat Harbors Topic  
Hub at [p2rx.org/hubs](http://p2rx.org/hubs)**



The Marinas & Small Boat Harbors Topic Hub was written by NEWMOA.

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## How to Use the Topic Hub™ Web Resource

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**Key References** →

## Current Topic Hubs

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Auto Salvage–Great Lakes Region	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Schools	Pollution Prevention (P2)
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Construction Science Education	Lean Manufacturing	Printing-Flexography
Consumer P2	Marinas and Small Boat Harbors	Printing-Lithography
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