

Preventing fuel and oil spills

Preventive Engine Maintenance

- Keep engines well-tuned and operating at peak efficiency.
- Choose Coast Guard-approved alcohol resistant fuel-lines.
- Inspect fuel lines, hoses, hydraulic lines, valves, oil seals, gaskets, and connections for leaks and deterioration. When replacing hoses, new hose sections should be the right length to prevent damage and leaks.
- Properly secure lines and hoses to prevent chafing, abrasion and damage.
- Keep a fresh oil-absorbing pad in the bilge, the engine compartment, and in the drip pan beneath the engine.
- Install drip pans under all equipment that might leak.
- Avoid using solvents or toxic chemicals to clean engine parts. Use mechanical means (such as hand scraping caked oil off equipment) or less-toxic solvents (water-based) instead. Don't let solvents run into the bilge.
- Transfer and remove fluids with care, using funnels, pumps and absorbents to eliminate drips and spills and to keep bilge area clean.

Bilge Oil

Fact: Ninety percent of oil in marine waters is from small, chronic sources such as bilges, outboard motors, poor fueling procedures, urban run-off and improper disposal of used oil products.

Goal: Protect Hawaii's waterways by preventing oily bilge water from being pumped overboard.

- To report all oil fuel and chemical spills in Hawaii call the National Response Center (800) 424-8802

Actions you can take for bilge oil

- Use absorbent bilge pads to soak up oil and fuel and then recycle the pads at the Oil dump next to the Harbor Master's office.
- Disconnect or disable the automatic bilge pump prior to commencing any work on the engine.
- If the discharge of any bilge water creates sheen, immediately discontinue the discharge and use absorbent pads to soak up the material. You are personally responsible and liable for any spill in any amount, either in the water, on the dock or on land.
- Recycle oil, oil filters and use absorbent pads at the oil dump next to the harbor office.
- Keep engines well-tuned: regularly check seals, gaskets, hoses and connections for leaks and drips. Change oil filters often.
- Place an oil absorbent material or bilge boom in the bilge. Recycle or properly dispose of used absorbents.
- Clean and maintain bilges. Do not use detergents while cleaning.
- Don't mix used oil with other substances.

It's unlawful to discharge oil into or upon the navigable waters of the state.