

The Basics of... Boat Fueling

Fueling your boat is a lot different than fueling your car. For one thing, it's easy to overfill from the deck fill. For another, boats usually have a fuel tank vent, which can send fuel straight into the water.

Spilling fuel is not only dangerous – it's not good for the environment either. And it's against the law. So what's a boater to do?

Just flip this card for information on how to prevent minor fuel drips and drops.

DIESEL

NO SMOKING



The BoatU.S. Foundation is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps boaters be safer and better stewards of the environment.

**Part of The Basics of...
Boater Education Series**

Smart Fueling Tips for Boaters

Simple Steps for Safer, Cleaner Fueling

Before Fueling:

- Know how much fuel your boat holds and how much you need.
- Turn off engine, electronics, and extinguish all open flames.
- Close hatches, ports, and doors.
- Put passengers ashore.
- Remove portable tanks from boat and fill on the dock.

During Fueling:

- Use an absorbent pad or donut around deck fill to catch spills.
- Maintain contact between nozzle and deck fill.
- Hold on to the nozzle when refueling – don't use a hands-free clip.
- Fuel slowly, and listen for a change in tone as the tank gets full.
- Resist topping off – fill tanks to 90% capacity.
- Have absorbent pads ready.
- Catch spills coming out of the fuel tank vent with a fuel catcher, such as a No Spill.
- Ask your marina to help you properly dispose of used absorbent pads or cloths.

Don't be tempted to hide a sheen with soap or detergent – that's against the law and is far more harmful to the environment than if left alone.

After Fueling:

- Do not use detergents to disperse any sheen/spill – it's illegal.
- After fueling, turn blower on for 3-5 minutes.
- Sniff bilges and engine compartment for fumes.
- Go Boating!

Any amount of fuel that creates a sheen on the water is illegal. By law, any sheen must be reported immediately to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.



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***Help us Help Stop
the Drops!***

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