



Cleaning your Hull

In-water hull cleaning for recreational boaties:
Understanding the rules before you start

Why do you need to haul-out and clean your hull?

Keeping your boat's hull clean protects our marine environment. A dirty hull can carry non-indigenous marine species (marine pests). Everyone has a part to play, as one or two pests can quickly multiply.

Non-indigenous marine species harm New Zealand waters by:

- **Degrading** New Zealand's marine ecosystems.
- **Impacting** biodiversity by outcompeting and displacing native species.
- **Threatening** aquaculture and fisheries by damaging stock and infrastructure.
- **Disrupting** cultural practices and kai moana by undermining healthy coastal environments.
- **Spreading** harmful diseases that destabilise marine life and industry.
- **Increasing** biosecurity pressures by continually requiring monitoring and management.

Using a haul-out facility is strongly recommended, as these facilities can safely collect and treat all waste. If these rules are not followed, legal action or penalties may apply.



What are the rules for in-water hull cleaning?

Every council has its own rules specified in council plans, so always check local council rules before cleaning your boat (and other movable structures) in the water.

Many regions do not allow in-water cleaning at all or only allow it under very strict rules.

Essentially, in-water cleaning is only allowed if no contaminants or marine pests are released into the water because almost all hull cleaning releases something, it is usually not permitted.

If you do clean your boat in the water, the following rules must be followed. Including, but not limited to:

1. The antifouling coating must still be within its planned service life, as specified by the manufacturer.
2. Your cleaning method must follow the coating manufacturer's recommendations.
3. For more information on how to anti-foul your boat please contact your local chandler, marina or anti foul specialists for advice.
4. Only vessels with a Level of Fouling rating of 2 or below can be cleaned in the water. (The Level of Fouling scale measures how much growth is on a boat's hull.)
5. You may clean microfouling (a thin slime layer) and goose barnacles without capturing the material.
6. Any biological material larger than 50 micrometres (0.05 mm) in diameter that is dislodged during cleaning must be captured and removed from the marine area and disposed of as general rubbish.

Intertidal cleaning and tidal grids

Cleaning your hull in the intertidal zone (beach or foreshore) or on tidal grids is generally not suitable. This is because doing this can release contaminants and marine pests into the sea, and antifouling paint may not dry properly between tides.

What to do if you spot a marine pest

If you notice any marine pests or unusual marine species while cleaning your hull:

- Stop cleaning immediately.
- Notify your local council or the Ministry for Primary Industries.
- Do not start cleaning again until the council tells you it is safe to do so.

For further information, contact your local council:

Marlborough District Council:

03 520 7400 or email
biosecurity@marlborough.govt.nz



Nelson City Council:

03 546 0200 or email
biosecurity@ncc.govt.nz



Tasman District Council:

03 543 8400 or email
biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz



Greater Wellington Regional Council:

0800 496 734 or email
info@gw.govt.nz



Biosecurity New Zealand:

0800 80 99 66 or report pests online
<http://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/>



Disclaimer

This guidance is not legal advice and cannot be relied on as a defence to any offence under the law. Always check council rules before you clean in the water. Many ports and marinas also prohibit in-water cleaning for environmental and safety reasons.