



Reducing Plastic Waste When Boating

Use reusable containers to store any food and beverages you are bringing out with you on the water. Examples include reusable drinkware, cutlery, sandwich bags, and coolers.

Bring extra water in reusable bottles or jugs to avoid using disposable plastic bottles. If you are using any disposable cans or bottles, place these items in the recycling bin. Make sure to rinse and dry them first.

Use a mesh trash bag to contain any trash and store below deck or tie it down. Take all trash back with you and dispose of properly on shore. Do not dump anything overboard. Recycle any items that are able to be recycled.

Secure all items that will not be in use when underway. Carabineers or line are a great tool for securing items. Be mindful of wind as it may rip items out of your hand. Avoid eating or drinking while underway to prevent accidental littering.

Pick up any trash you see and dispose of it in a trash bin. Be careful if picking up sharp items. Make sure to place sharp items in a sturdy container before disposing of them in the trash bin.

When fishing, make sure lures are secured to fishing line to prevent loss and avoid cutting your line unless necessary. Remove fishing line as you see it. Store line in a container so it does not blow away.

If you smoke, use a smoking receptacle for used cigarette butts which are made of plastic fibers. Do not throw them into the water.

Consider using a reusable boat cover instead of shrink wrap when overwintering your boat or store your boat inside.

Always make sure your boat and the items aboard are secure when docking to prevent accidental loss of items.

Be prepared for large storms or flooding events and haul your boat out of the water if needed.

Power wash your hull over a tarp to prevent paint chips from entering the water. Do not wash paint chips into the nearby waterway.

By Jill Bartolotta

Ohio State University Extension
Ohio Sea Grant

