

Who wants to fish, swim, boat, ski or relax in water where raw or untreated sewage is being discharged?

Untreated sewage is unsightly and contains disease-carrying micro-organisms from which swimmers and water skiers can develop skin rashes, amoeba dysentery, and parasitic worm diseases.

Discharging untreated sewage can spread diseases and contaminate shellfish beds. Shellfish can transmit nearly every water-borne pathogen to humans. These pathogens cause diseases such as gastrointestinal illnesses or more serious Hepatitis, Typhoid, and Cholera.

Organic matter in sewage is decomposed in the waters, the bacteria use oxygen. As a result, sewage in the water may deplete the water's oxygen level, which can affect fish population, and that of other aquatic animals.

Discharging sewage can also cause environmental problems such as large, toxic algae blooms.

It's the Law!

If your boat has a marine toilet on board, **Section 316 of the Clean Water Act** requires that it be connected to an operable **U.S. Coast Guard Certified Marine Sanitation Device (MSD)**.

If the effluent from a ship-board MSD does not meet EPA criterion, the vessel operator, under **Section 1322(j) of the FWPCA** is subject to a **civil penalty of up to \$2,000. for each violation.**

THE MSD
Keeping Our Waters Clean

Environmental Marine Inc.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MARINE INC.
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Don't Get BUSTED!



*U.S. Coast Guard Certified Type II
Marine Sanitation Device*

- **Constructed of High Density Polyethylene**
- **Lightweight**
- **Corrosion Resistant**
- **Simple Installation**
- **Operates as a Biological Aerobic Sewage Treatment System Eliminating Foul Odors**
- **Low Cost, Easy Maintenance and Long Lasting Reliability make THE MSD "The Educated Choice"**

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Illegal Discharge

Section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA), as amended (33 U.S.C. 1322), requires MSDs to prevent the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated sewage into U.S. waters.

It requires a certified operable marine sanitation device MSD on every vessel with installed toilets. Installed toilets that are not equipped with an MSD, and that discharge raw sewage directly over the side, are illegal.

Vessels with installed toilets must install an operable, certified MSD, as follows:

A. Vessels 65 feet in length and under must have a Type I, II or III device. (Type I MSDs are still permitted on new installations because of a USCG waiver issued by Federal Register notice of Monday, 10 July 1978.)

B. Vessels over 65 feet in length must have a Type I or II device. Type I devices are permitted only if:

(1) *The construction of the vessel was begun on or after 30 January 1975 and the MSD was installed prior to 31 January 1980;*

(2) *The construction of the vessel was begun before 30 January 1975 and the MSD was installed before 31 January 1979 (extended from 1978 to 1979 because of a USCG waiver issued by Federal register notice of Monday, 28 November 1977).*

The U.S. Coast Guard recognizes three MSD equipment classes:

It is vital to recognize that an MSD type is based on the equipment installation. For example, a malfunctioning flow through discharge device that has a closed overboard discharge valve is NOT a no discharge device. It is a broken machine.

Type I

A flow through discharge device that, under the test conditions described in 33 CFR 159.121, produces effluent having a fecal coliform bacteria count no greater than 1000/100 milliliters, and no visible floating solids. A Type I MSD is commonly a physical/chemical type (macerator /chlorinator).

Type II

A flow through discharge device that, under the test conditions described in 33 CFR 159.121, produces effluent having a fecal coliform bacteria count no greater than 200/100 milliliters, and suspended solids no greater than 150 milligrams/liter. A Type II MSD is commonly a biological (aerobic digestion) plant.

Type III

A device designed to prevent the overboard discharge of treated or untreated sewage, or any waste derived from sewage. Most Type IIIs are holding tanks, but there are also vacuum collection systems, incineration systems, recirculation systems, and a composting system.

Sewage contamination is measured in terms of fecal coliforms — bacteria produced in the intestines of all warm-blooded animals. Test results are expressed as the number of bacteria per 100 milliliters (ml) of water. Shellfish beds are closed when the coliform count reaches 14 per 100 ml of water. Public beaches are closed to swimmers when the coliform count reaches 200 per 100 ml of water.

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