



# Boat Greywater ON SHUSWAP AND MARA LAKES

Artwork provided by  
*Celebrate the Shuswap*  
poster contest winners.  
[shuswapwatershed.ca](http://shuswapwatershed.ca)

**Our lakes give us drinking water, recreation and are a crucial part of our economy. As boaters, we can support the lakes by reducing the impacts of greywater — the wastewater from on-board sinks, showers or washers and from boat maintenance activities.**

The Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP) brings together communities, First Nations and public agencies to make the Shuswap watershed a great place to live, work and play. Working in partnership on innovative approaches and projects, SLIPP aims to increase public safety on the water, ensure a healthy lake and create an environment where a diversity of recreational experiences and economic opportunities can be enjoyed by all.

**For more information about boat greywater in the Shuswap area, visit [slippbc.com](http://slippbc.com)**

## What's the problem with dumping greywater from boats?

Greywater contains bacteria, viruses and chemicals that can pose a threat to human health and the lakes. These materials wash off our bodies, food and clothing and are contained in the cleaning and cosmetic products we use. Although it may seem harmless, with contaminants like phosphate, chlorine, salts, metals, and endocrine disruptors, this soapy water can pollute ecosystems. Because many boats are not equipped with holding tanks, greywater flows untreated from sinks and showers into our local watershed.

## What can boaters do to reduce greywater impacts?

### Be aware — know your plumbing and how wastes are stored or discharged

- If you have greywater tanks, use available pump-out facilities to dispose of waste rather than dump to the lake.
- Seal off, remove or otherwise prevent the use of heads, galleys, sinks, showers, etc. where holding tanks are not possible, or where pump-out facilities are not available.
- Many boats can be retrofitted to include a greywater holding tank or to route greywater to the toilet waste holding tank.

### Use shore-side facilities

- For shorter day trips, bring your dirty dishes home to wash.
- When possible, take showers on land.
- Save your laundry to do after the holidays.

### Use onboard facilities with care

- Shower and wash dishes when well away from the shoreline and bays, avoiding residences, beaches and areas where people could be using the water to drink, swim, wakeboard, etc.

### Use phosphate-free & non-toxic soaps

- Check product labels and avoid cleaners that advise "do not get in eyes" or "always wear gloves;" these products are more likely to harm you and the environment.

### Use alternative cleaners

- Baking soda, lemon juice, and vinegar can perform as well as commercial products without harmful by-products.

### Use less product

- A little cleaner can go a long way, especially when combined with a bit of elbow grease. Wash decks and hulls frequently with fresh water to avoid the use of harsh, corrosive cleaners.



*Working together to sustain our watershed*

**Visit [slippbc.com](http://slippbc.com)**

