

Christina Lake Green Boater Tips

If you are a boater, use this list of tips to protect the health and beauty of Christina Lake.... And maybe save yourself some money as well !!!

Cleaning Your Craft

- Before launch, give your boat a thorough cleaning on land, where runoff won't enter directly into the lake.
- Apply a good coat of boat wax to keep surface dirt from becoming ingrained.
- Remember that “ environment-friendly “ detergent and some phosphate free products contain replacement chemicals, which are even worse. Harsh cleaners, soaps and detergents destroy your protective wax coating.
- Consider a portable power sprayer for parts that get the dirtiest.

Alternatives to Soaps and Detergents

Fiberglass	Baking soda and salt (in water)
Aluminum	1 Tbsp. of cream of tartar in a half liter of hot water
Brass	Worcestershire sauce, vinegar and salt solution
Chrome	Vinegar and salt solution
Copper	Lemon juice and salt solution
Decks	1 part vinegar to 8 parts water
Hair	Baby Shampoo (phosphate free and pH balanced)
Hands	Baby Oil or margarine
Clear Plastic	1 part vinegar to two parts water
Mildew	Vinegar and salt solution
Shower	Wet the area, apply baking soda and wipe
Toilet	Baking Soda
Windows	1 part vinegar to two parts water
Wood	Polish with olive oil
Chrome/ Metal	Polish with baby oil
Bleaching	Hydrogen peroxide
Scouring	Baking Soda

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Fueling

- Have two cloths on hand to catch any spills – one for the filler and one for the fuel tank vent.
- If you have portable fuel tanks, always fill them on shore.
- If your tanks are engine-mounted, take the motor ashore to refuel.
- If you have fixed or built-in tanks:
 - know their capacities.
 - have an accurate fuel gauge.
 - determine how much fuel you need.
 - While you are filling the tank, use your hand to check for air escaping the vent. A distinct change in the air flow will signal you to stop filling.
 - Install an anti-surge valve in the fuel vent line to prevent fuel from leaking overboard.

Bilges

- Make sure the engine (s) are in good condition, with no leaking seals, gaskets, or hoses.
- Fit a tray underneath the engine, if possible, to contain any spills.
- Turn off automatic bilge pumps; use them only when required and when the bilge contains only water.
- Use one or two bilge clothes or pillows. Dispose of them as hazardous waste materials.
- Bio-bilge or enzyme cleaners should be used only as a last resort.
- Some marinas offer a bilge pump-out service. This is your best option.

Engines

- Ditch the two stroke; go for the four! Four stroke motors are preferable because they are well sealed, quiet, and burn fuel efficiently.
- Go electric. If you use your boat primarily for low speed activities such as trolling, why not turn to a battery and an outboard prop? Keep a tray under your battery and you will be emissions free.

Mindful Driving

- Reduce your wake within 500 ft. of shore. The erosion associated with boat wakes is surprising. Bird nests can also be swamped!
- Do not use a propeller in shallow waters – avoid stirring up the bottom.
- Give all wildlife space.

A Clean Take Out

- Once your boat is upland, conduct a thorough cleaning. Remove any plants or animals that may be clinging to the hull, trailer or motor, or that are hiding in the bilge. Of special concern are invasive species, such as milfoil.