

# Reduce Your Impact! Safely Fuel Your Boat.

Petroleum-based fuel is a hazardous material. The most effective way to minimize its potentially harmful effect on Lake Lanier is to reduce consumption and prevent spills. When fueling your boat at any [Lake Lanier marina](#), be sure to:

- Fuel slowly and carefully. **Never prop open a fuel trigger on a gas pump handle or leave your vessel unattended** on Lake Lanier when filling your gasoline tank.
- Use **oil absorbent pads** to catch drips while handing the fuel nozzle between the dock and the boat.
- Know how much fuel your tanks hold, and **don't top off!** Only fill the tank to 90% since fuel expands as it warms up. If a marina attendant is filling up your tank, let them know how much your tank holds.
- Refuel at the end of the day, listen to the filler pipe to anticipate when the tank is full and leave room for expansion. If you overfill your tank, you can actually lose fuel out of the overflow vents during the heat of the day.
- **Fill portable gas tanks on shore** where spills are less likely to occur and easier to clean up.
- **Inspect fuel lines regularly.** Replace those with dry, cracked or soft spots.

Most marine paints are made with toxic chemicals designed to leach out and prevent bottom growth on the hull. Antifoulant coatings are a threat to aquatic life. When concentrated amounts of these materials are allowed to escape from hull maintenance and repair areas, there is a potential for environmental harm. Materials, such as solvents, thinners, and brush cleaners, often used in sanding and painting, can also harm the environment if improperly handled.

Research paints before deciding what to use. Consider alternatives to toxic “soft” bottom paints. Some good alternatives are silicon, polyurethane, Teflon, and some other hard antifouling coatings. These alternatives rely on a slick surface to discourage the growth of marine organisms rather than killing them. Consider storing your boat out of the water to prevent fouling and eliminating the need for a bottom paint.

Boats painted with anti-fouling paint containing TBT (Tributyltin) are not allowed on Lake Lanier.

Sanding and painting can be messy tasks. If certain precautions are not taken, these tasks can also create a mess for the environment as well!