

The Basics of... No Discharge Areas

We all know it's not good boating (or legal boating) to discharge our marine heads directly overboard. But now we keep hearing about "No Discharge Areas." What does that mean?

Boats in No Discharge Areas are not allowed to put any sewage overboard, whether treated or untreated. No Discharge Areas do not affect your gray water discharge. If you have a portable toilet on-board or your head is attached to a holding tank, you are fine. You pump all your sewage out at a onshore pumpout station anyway.

If you have a Type I or II Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) designed to treat the sewage and then discharge it, you may not use this in a No Discharge Area.

If you have a "Y-valve" or a Type I or II MSD, be sure to secure your system before entering a No Discharge Area. Visit our website for more details.

Flip this card to find out if you might be boating in, or heading toward, a designated No Discharge Area.



The BoatU.S. Foundation is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps boaters be safer and better stewards of the environment.

**Part of *The Basics of...*
Boater Education Series**