



Boat Washing Basics

Keeping your vessel free from dirt, grime and marine scum will help protect it from the harsh impact of the sun and sea. It will also add years of life to its finish.

The key to taking the chore out of washing your boat is the wash and detail it thoroughly once a year, wash and wax it regularly in season and to rinse it with fresh water after each use.

There are a variety of wash and wax products on the market that make washing and waxing a boat much less labor intensive than in the past. Just be sure to select a quality boat wash and wax that contains carnauba wax.

Here is what you need:

5-Gallon Plastic Bucket	Carnauba base Wax
Clean rags or towels	Marine Soap
Mop	Metal Polish
Long-Handle, soft bristle brush	Bilge Cleaner
Wash Mitt	Vinyl Cleaner-Protectant
Chamois	

Washing the Boat:

1. Hose down the boat from top to bottom, then bow to stern.
2. Mix the Marine Wash with water.
3. Soak the wash mitt, then use it on the vertical areas in a circular motion.
4. Mop the deck and hard to reach areas.
5. Wash and rinse one area at a time with fresh water. This will prevent the cleaning solution to sun-drying, causing soap scum buildup.
6. Use the chamois to dry each area before moving to the next section. This will prevent water drop evaporation that causes water spots.
7. A good metal polish will remove spotting on boat railings, flybridge ladders, bimini poles and fishing rod holders.
8. Black streak remove will erase streaks on the hull caused by draining water, dock pilings and waterline scum. Just spray and wipe.
9. Sponge dirt, grime and stains from the shift controls and in the helm area. Use a degreaser to remove the crud, soot, and oil from the engine transom and the boat's exhaust pipe area.
10. Clean mildew from under the cushions, personal flotation devices and other fabric, vinyl or leather equipment. Remember to check the crevices. Cushions and like equipment should be washed, dried and treated with a protecting solution to shield damage from, mold, mildew, ultraviolet rays and discoloration. Apply a waterproofer and protectant to prevent further buildup.
11. Wash and dry windshield.
12. Finish the boat washing by cleaning the bilge.

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