

# BOATER'S GUIDE TO ECO-FRIENDLY PURCHASING

**LOOK FOR:**

- Biodegradable • Non-aerosol • Low or Non-VOC\* • Water-based • Soy-based
- Derived from natural sources • Eco-label certifications such as, Green Seal, EcoLogo, EPA Design for the Environment

APE	Alkyl- or nonylphenol ethoxylate
MeCl	Methylene chloride dichloromethane
MEK	Methyl ethyl ketone, 2 butanone
NMP	N-methyl 2-pyrrolidone
PCBTF	Parachlorobenzotrifluoride
PD	Petroleum distillates, naphta, mineral spirits, kerosene, stoddard solvent
PERC	Perchloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene
TCE	Trichloroethylene

\*VOC=Volatile Organic Compound. Products w/ VOCs should comply w/California VOC Regulations

✓ Try these ingredients  
 X Avoid these ingredients known to be toxic to humans and/or the environment

Adhesive	
✓	Water-based
X	Ethylbenzene • hexane • toluene • xylene • benzene
Antifreeze	
✓	Propylene glycol • recycled antifreeze
X	Ethylene glycol
Cleaner: Bilge	
✓	Veg-based • biodegradable
X	Soap • solvents • degreasers • TCE • PERC • MeCl
Cleaner: Brake	
✓	Non-aerosol • water-based
X	Hexane • toluene • PERC • MeCl
Cleaner: Degreaser	
✓	Water-, citrus-, or soy-based • non-aerosol • lemon juice & borax
X	Chlorinated solvents • benzene • sodium hydroxide • phosphates •

	butoxyethanol • PERC • NMP • PD • MeCl
Cleaner: Detergent/Soap	
✓	Fresh water & a lot of elbow grease • biodegradable • phosphate-free • vegetable or citrus-based soaps • hydrogen peroxide
X	Phosphates • phosphoric acid • sodium hypochlorite (bleach) • chlorinated solvents • PD • APE • quaternary ammonia • lye
Cleaner: Dish	
✓	Vegetable-based • citric acid
X	2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol (bronopol) • oxybenzone • hypochlorite • sulfuric acid • nitric acid • ethyl alcohol • triclosan • propylene glycol
Cleaner: Drain	
✓	Disassemble & replace • flush with a mixture of boiling water, ¼ c. baking soda & ¼ c. vinegar • enzymes • citrus extract • biodegradable
X	Sodium hydroxide

Cleaner: Floor	
✓	Vegetable or citrus-based soaps Fresh water & a lot of elbow grease • hydrogen peroxide phosphate-free • biodegradable
X	Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) • APE • sodium hydroxide • chlorinated solvents • phosphoric acid
Cleaner: Glass	
✓	1 c. vinegar: 1 qt warm water
X	Glycol ethers
Cleaner: Head	
✓	Brush w/baking soda • active-oxygen-based sprays • ½ c. borax: 1 gal of water
X	Hypochlorite • formaldehyde
Cleaner: Holding Tank	
✓	Bio-active • nitrates • enzymes • biodegradable • fragrance-free
X	Formaldehyde • ammonium chloride • isopropyl alcohol • 2-propanol • isopropanol
Cleaner: Hull	
✓	Oxalic acid
X	Phosphoric acid • APE

✓	Xylene • ethylbenzene • PD
Remover: Mildew	
✓	Scrub with paste of equal parts lemon juice (or vinegar) & salt • full strength vinegar, then rinse • scrub mildew w/ borax & water using a nylon scouring pad
X	Phosphate • sodium hypochlorite
Remover: Rust	
✓	Oxalic acid
X	TCE • hexane • MeCl • PD •
Solvent	
✓	Water- or soy-based • ethyl lactate • methyl esters
X	Ethylbenzene • hexane • toluene • MEK • xylene • MeCl
Wood Polish/Preservative	
✓	Water-based • shellac, tung, olive, linseed, walnut, or almond oil • 3:1 olive oil to white vinegar
X	Pentachlorophenol (PCP) • creosote • tributyltin • fofpet

Created in partnership with:  
 CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control  
 San Francisco Dept. of Public Health  
 California Coastal Commission



X	MeCl • NMP • PCBTF
Paint: Thinner/Reducer	
✓	Water or soy-based • acetone
X	PD • toluene • xylene
Paint: Topside/Interior/Primer/ Wood Coating	
✓	Water based • low VOC
X	MeCl • TCE • benzene • xylene • ethylbenzene • toluene • acetone
Remover: Adhesive/Graffiti/Stain	
✓	Non-aerosol • ethyl lactate • citrus juice (or vinegar) & salt • full strength vinegar, then rinse • scrub mildew w/ borax & water using a nylon scouring pad
X	MeCl • NMP • MEK • toluene • benzene • Ethylbenzene • PD • xylene • lactate • methyl acetate
Remover: Fiberglass	
✓	Baking soda & water • oxalic acid
X	Xylene • ethylbenzene • PD
Remover: Drain	
✓	Scrub with paste of equal parts lemon juice (or vinegar) & salt • full strength vinegar, then rinse • scrub mildew w/ borax & water using a nylon scouring pad

X	Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)
Cleaner: Shower	
✓	Baking soda • salt
X	Ethyl alcohol • sodium hypochlorite • glycol ethers
Cleaner: Teak	
✓	Oxalic acid • biodegradable soap to remove dirt & salt water • instead of bleaching, try using a wild power soap & scrub w/ bronze wool
X	Phosphoric acid • (bleach) sodium hypochlorite • sodium hydroxide
Cleaner: Varnish	
✓	Wipe with ½ c. vinegar & ½ c. water solution
X	Xylene • ethylbenzene • PD
Paint: Anti-fouling/Hull	
✓	Epoxy • non-bioicide • silicone
X	Dibutyl phthalates • tributyltin • zinc pyrrithione • ethylbenzene • xylene • copper (cuprous oxide)
Paint: Paint Stripper/Remover	
✓	Sodium bicarbonate (soda) blasting • vacuum sanding



Cleaner: Metal	
✓	Brass: Worcesterhire sauce, or paste made of equal parts salt, vinegar, & water
✓	Chrome: plain or apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish Or, use soap & water; then dry very well
✓	Stainless Steel: baking soda or mineral oil for polishing, vinegar to remove spots
✓	Copper: lemon juice & water, or paste made of equal parts lemon juice, salt, & flour
✓	Aluminum: 2 tsp cream of tartar:1 quart water
X	Chlorinated solvents • NMP strong caustics • hexane • PERC • butoxyethanol • PD
Cleaner: Rug/Upholstery	
✓	Dry corn starch; vacuum
X	Bromine • triclosan • 2-phenyl phenol • acrylic acid • hypochlorite • sulfuric acid • para-dichlorobenzene
Cleaner: Scouring Powder	
✓	Peroxide • wet surface & use scouring cloth w/ baking soda

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Paint: Thinner/Reducer	
✓	Water or soy- based • acetone
X	PD • toluene • xylene
Paint: Topside/Interior/Primer/ Wood Coating	
✓	Water based • low VOC
X	MeCl • TCE • benzene • xylene • toluene • ethylbenzene • MEK • hexane • heavy metals i.e. lead, chromate, chromium VI, cobalt
Remover: Adhesive/Graffiti/Stain	
✓	Non-aerosol • ethyl lactate • citrus or soy-based • acetone • methyl lactate • methyl acetate
X	Benzene • Ethylbenzene • PD • xylene • MeCl • NMP • MEK • toluene
Remover: Fiberglass	
✓	Baking soda & water • oxalic acid
X	Xylene • ethylbenzene • PD
Remover: Drain	
✓	Scrub with paste of equal parts lemon juice (or vinegar) & salt • full strength vinegar, then rinse • scrub mildew w/ borax & water using a nylon scouring pad

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Cleaner: Class	
X	Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) • APE • sodium hydroxide • chlorinated solvents • phosphoric acid
✓	Fresh water & a lot of elbow grease • hydrogen peroxide • phosphate-free • biodegradable
Cleaner: Floor	
✓	Vegetable or citrus-based soaps

X	Sodium hydroxide
✓	biodegradable enzymes • citrus extract • a mixture of boiling water, ¼ c. baking soda & ¼ c. vinegar
Cleaner: Drain	
✓	Disassemble & replace • flush with trichloro • propylene glycol
X	2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol (bromopol) • oxycarbazone • hypochlorite • sulfuric acid • nitric acid • ethyl alcohol • trichloro • propylene glycol
Cleaner: Dish	
✓	Vegetable-based • citric acid
X	Antifreeze
✓	Free • vegetable or citrus-based soaps • hydrogen peroxide • phosphate-free • biodegradable • grease • water & a lot of elbow
Cleaner: Detergent/Soap	
✓	butoxyethanol • PERC • NMP • PD • MeCl

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✓	Water-, citrus-, or soy-based non-aerosol • lemon juice & borax
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Perchloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene	PERC
Trichloroethylene	TCE

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