



make a clear difference for Flathead Lake

# Lake-friendly fueling

## WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

We fill up our boats' gas tanks. Gasoline spills into the lake. Even small spills can:

- mount up to cause large problems to lake wildlife
- contain petroleum hydrocarbons that attach to sediment materials and can accumulate in bottom dwelling organisms, a foundation of the food chain.



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

The best way to **keep fuel out of Flathead Lake:**

- **Prevent splashing** - always use an oil absorbent, fuel donut (shown above) or fuel bib around the deck filler (available at some marinas and marine supply stores) to catch spills and overflow. Be sure to properly dispose of fuel-soaked absorbents as hazardous waste.
- **Don't top it off** - gas expands as the temperature increases. Fill your tank 90% or less to prevent gas spilling through a fuel vent.
- **Listen for a full tank** - fill up your tank slowly and listen for it to fill up. Do not rely on automatic shut-off, they won't shut off when the tank is 90% full and could cause unwanted overflow.



# CLEAN WATER TOOL KIT: Lake-friendly fueling

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## WHERE TO LEARN MORE?

Find out more about boating and clean water. The Flathead Lakers offer:

- **Free visit** to explore clean water practices that might work for you;
- **Flathead Clean Water Toolkit website:** information about boating safety, fueling, and clean water: [www.flatheadlakers.org/toolkit](http://www.flatheadlakers.org/toolkit)
- **Safe refueling video** – visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kEurE6-oFQ#t=23](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kEurE6-oFQ#t=23) to learn more.
- **Walk and Talk Tours** - Meet neighbors and see more clean water practices.

Together, we can keep Flathead Lake blue! Visit the Flathead Lake Clean Water Toolkit:

[www.flatheadlakers.org/toolkit](http://www.flatheadlakers.org/toolkit) or call 883-1341.

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