

Preventing Marine Sewage Pollution

from Small Vessels of <400 gross tons that carry ≤15 passengers

Sewage can cause harm to human health and the environment. Transport Canada regulates the discharge of sewage to waters under Canadian jurisdiction. The **Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemical Regulations (VPDCR)**, made under the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, requires you to have the proper sewage management equipment on board of your vessel, and to know where to discharge your vessel's sewage. To comply with the regulations:

Consider your equipment:

MARINE SANITATION DEVICE	↔ or ↔	HOLDING TANK	↔ or ↔	TEMPORARY STORAGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be a type approved to the standards set out by MARPOL* (Annex IV), or those standards set out by the United States Coast Guard (USCG Type II MSD). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large enough to hold the required capacity of sewage for your vessel's trip (Tip: Holding tanks should hold 0.56 litres per person per hour of operation). For discharge at a pump-out station ONLY, or from the vessel when it is at the prescribed distance from shore. Cannot discharge raw sewage directly from the toilet. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only permitted for vessels under 15 GT and that carry ≤ 15 passengers. Do not use on inland waters. Must be secured to the vessel (e.g., porta-potty). Check with your municipality about the proper way to empty.
<small>*MARPOL, short for Marine Pollution, is the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.</small>				

Consider your distance from shore:

Important Note: You **CAN NEVER** discharge sewage within inland waters (rivers and lakes)

