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QUICK TIPS TO MAKE CLEANING LESS OF A CHORE

When owners put off cleaning their boats, they invite expensive trouble. Regular preventive maintenance saves time, money and headaches. Once dirt and grime are allowed to accumulate, getting rid of the filth and grease becomes discouragingly hard. A little discipline and the right products go a long way to developing a good cleaning routine.

Saltwater is particularly rough on boat surfaces, causing rust and corrosion. Good old soap and water attack and eliminate salt crystals. Owners should pay special attention to out-of-the-way places such as around connectors for electronics, wiring and metallic moving parts. Trailers are often overlooked. Saltwater dripping from the hull that accumulates in crevices can be washed away with soapy water.

Freshwater has its share of problems, too. Tannic acid, dissolved lime compounds and manmade pollutants can discolor any finish and harm metals. Stubborn rust stains or accretions of calcium precipitates are hard to remove from hulls, particularly along the waterline or inside compartments where stagnant water has collected. The easiest way to approach these tough stains is early and often.

When trying any chemical cleaner for the first time, owners should follow directions carefully and test it somewhere it won't be seen, such as the keel. With the right cleaning solution, procedures and equipment, a

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thorough washdown at the end of the day takes only a few minutes and pays off handsomely.

A product that yields excellent results will encourage owners to get into the habit of regular maintenance. Brite Wash from Shurhold is an environmentally smart cleaning solution that makes boats look great and adds to their longevity. Versatile, it is scientifically formulated to clean fiberglass, clear coat, metal, rubber and painted surfaces.

Shurhold's Brite Wash dissolves dirt, grease, salt and more without dulling the finish or stripping wax or polish. The 1 gal. container retails for \$24.98 and the 32 oz. bottle for \$11.98.

Dedicated to educating boat owners, Shurhold provides key tips for boat value preservation at www.shurhold.com. Inventor of the One Handle Does It All system, Shurhold manufactures specialty care items and accessories to clean, polish and detail.

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