

## Greywater Discharges Banned from Vessels in BC's Inland Waters

### What are Greywater and Blackwater?

Greywater is any waste discharging from showers, kitchen, bathroom and wet bar sinks, dishwashers, washing machines and hot tubs. Blackwater is wastewater from toilets.

### Why are greywater discharges a problem?

Studies conducted by the California Department of Health Services show that the concentrations of pollutants in greywater, including disease causing bacteria, are similar to that of domestic sewage. The US Environmental Protection Agency has banned all greywater discharges into US waters. Currently, most vessels with heads and/or galleys are equipped with blackwater holding tanks only, greywater is discharged directly into the water body.



### Why hasn't anything been done about greywater discharges before now?

In the past, discharges from vessels were regulated federally by the *Regulation for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals* under the *Canada Shipping Act*. This regulation prohibits the discharge of blackwater into designated waters, however, in non-designated waters blackwater discharges are not prohibited. The regulation makes no prohibition against the discharge of greywater into either designated or non-designated waters. Recent changes to this federal regulation combined with the growing understanding of the risks associated with greywater discharges have prompted the Ministry of Environment to step up enforcement of the relevant provisions of the *Environmental Management Act*.



For more information contact:  
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/env/index.html>

### What action will be taken to prevent greywater discharges from boats now and in the future?

Section 13 of the province's *Environmental Management Act*, prohibits the discharge of both black and greywater from any vessel into any water, unless specifically authorized.

Ministry staff will be working in partnership with regional and municipal governments, industry and local boating associations on this issue. A key component of the strategy involves education of boaters on the requirement that all vessels equipped with heads and/or galleys must have the capacity to capture both black and greywater. It is hoped that through increased awareness and industry cooperation, a high level of voluntary compliance can be achieved.

### How will these actions be performed?

The strategy involves phased-in compliance, starting with education and ending with enforcement when necessary. This will provide the time required for the boat industry to adapt and boat owners to retrofit vessels to meet requirements under the prohibition. The phase in will also allow the development of suitable pump-out facilities.

Under the strategy, by 2010 all vessels will be required to capture both black and greywater discharges. Boaters failing to capture discharges may be subject to enforcement.

### Who will these actions affect and where and when will they be enforced?

The enforcement of the greywater discharge prohibition will be concentrated in the Thompson, Cariboo, Okanagan and Kootenay regions, and will apply to any boat or houseboat equipped with a head and/or galley.

### Who can I contact if I have more questions?

For further information please contact a local Ministry of Environment office.



Village of Harrison Hot Springs

## Marine Sanitation



## Pump-Out Station



Marine Sanitation Pump-Out Station  
Harrison Lake

Village of Harrison Hot Springs  
Tel: 604-796-2171



## Village of Harrison Hot Springs

### Marine Sanitation Pump-Out Station

In the spring of 2009, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs installed a new marine sanitation station located at Rendall Park adjacent to the boat launch facility on Harrison Lake.

Assistance for funding this project was provided through the Towns for Tomorrow program of the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Community and Rural Development and the District of Kent.

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs also acknowledges the assistance provided by Steven Dunn, Wedler Engineering, Scott Resources and Moonlite Electric.

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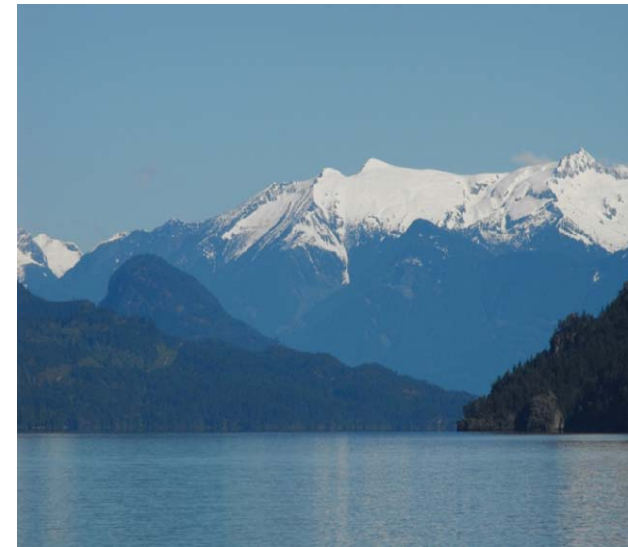
Looking north at Marine Sani-station  
from Rendall Park

The service is provided at no cost and is very quick and easy with self explanatory instructions. The station is a remote pumping centre situated on a separate dock adjacent to the boat launch ramp.

*Harrison Hot Springs is committed to being a viable, sustainable, environmentally friendly community striving for financial responsibility. Working on short and long term goals that foster responsible stewardship is the future of Harrison Hot Springs.*

Harrison Lake serves a large number of recreational visitors and boaters. Each year approximately 4,000 boats are launched from the public boat launch in Harrison Hot Springs. Council identified this service as a priority for the community along with support and collaboration with Chehalis First Nations.

This facility was installed to provide discharge waste services for the boating community. This also reduces the risk of contamination of drinking water supply for the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and the many homes and cabins along the lake.



Harrison Lake