

CLEAN VESSEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



CVAP

MARINE SANITATION DEVICES

Marine Sanitation Device (MSD): any equipment for installation on board a vessel which is designed to receive, retain, treat or discharge sewage, and any process to treat such sewage (*Federal Pollution Control Act, Section 312*).

NOTE: In some navigable waters of the United States, “graywater” (galley, bath and shower water) is considered sewage, as it applies to rules and regulations.

U.S. Code: [Title 33-Navigation and Navigable Waters>Chapter 26-Water Pollution Prevention & Control >Subchapter III-Standards and Enforcement>Section 1322-Marine Sanitation Devices](#)

As of January 30, 1980, if a vessel has an installed marine sanitation device (toilet), it must be one of three types:

| MSD Type | Vessel Length | System Requirement | Standard |
|--|---|--|---|
| Type I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow-through Waste-grinder Disinfection | Equal to or less than 65 feet in length | If in <i>No Discharge Zone</i> , must have option of connecting holding tank with a locked Y-valve in order to prevent overboard discharge. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effluent fecal coliform bacteria count must be less than 1,000/100 milliliters No visible floating solids |
| Type II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow-through device Advanced waste-grinder Advanced disinfection | Greater than 65 feet in length | Same as Type I | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effluent fecal coliform bacteria count must be less than 200/100 milliliters Suspended solids (small particles floating in remaining liquid) must be less than 150 mg/liter. |
| Type III: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding Tank | Any length | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May contain deodorizers &/or other chemicals. May be equipped with a "Y" valve that will allow overboard discharges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No treatment other than manually added chemicals &/or deodorizers. <p>This MSD is designed to prevent the overboard discharge of treated or untreated sewage.</p> |

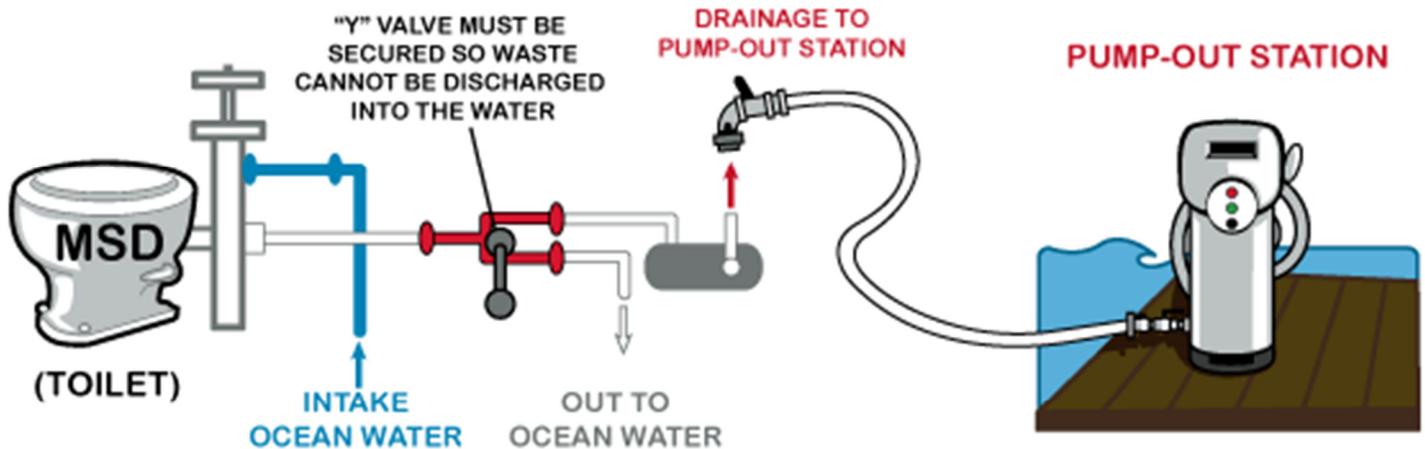
IMPORTANT: A portable toilet used on board your boat is NOT an MSD. Waste must be disposed of properly, using a pumpout station, dump station or other sanitary waste disposal that allows for proper treatment of septic waste.





DETAILS

- ▶ Discharging vessel sewage directly overboard is illegal within 3 miles of shore of U.S. territorial waters. Please be aware that there is no place within the Long Island Sound that is considered open waters, so no direct sewage discharge can be made in the Sound.
- ▶ Discharging vessel sewage overboard from a vessel equipped with ANY of the above MSDs is prohibited in *No Discharge Zones*.
- ▶ Many areas will require that the "Y" valve on a Type III MSD be disabled, disallowing any discharge.



TERMS YOU MAY HEAR IN ASSOCIATION WITH MSDs

- Disinfection:** treatment to reduce the amount of bacteria and some disease-causing organisms; typically done through the addition of chemicals.
- Effluent:** the outflow or discharge of wastewater from the boat, which requires proper treatment and disposal.
- Fecal Coliform Bacteria:** an organism found in the gut of humans and animals. Its presence in aquatic environments indicates contamination with fecal material and a potential health risk for individuals exposed to possible disease-causing organisms, which can also be in the fecal material.
- Floating Solids:** solid particles that are visible in the water.
- Suspended Solids:** small, solid particles that remain floating around in the water.
- Waste-Grinder or Maceration:** mechanical action that grinds solids to small pieces.