



PORT OF BELLINGHAM
Washington State

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2019

HARBOR NEWS

BLAINE AND SQUALICUM HARBORS' NEWSLETTER



MARINA SAFETY Shore Power Cords

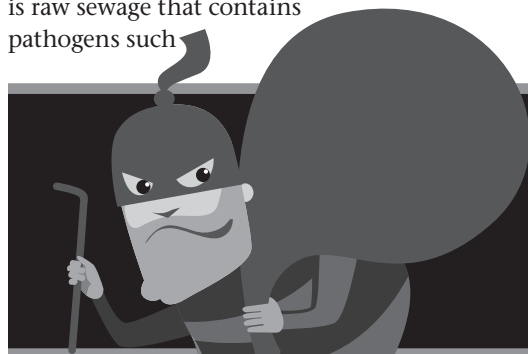
During the colder months many boaters rely on their shore power to supply electricity to their boats. This is a reminder that only marine rated power cords are permitted on the docks. Keep your cord in good shape by using the appropriate strain relief, prevent it from draping into the water, and ensuring the cord wires are not pinched or crushed. Cords and connectors should be inspected often and replaced when damage or corrosion is discovered. Boat US recommends that plugs with brown discoloration at the base of the blades or a worn nickel coating or pitting should not be used. Boat US also recommends inspecting your vessel's shore power inlet at least every 5 years. A qualified marine electrician would be able to assist boaters with any questions and repairs.

Storage on Floats

Please help us keep our docks and floats safe for walking. Stored items and dock clutter creates trip hazards and blocks emergency access. If you have a boat related item you no longer need or don't know how to dispose of properly, harbor staff may be able to suggest a solution to your problem.

Water quality staff from Whatcom County Public Works visited Blaine Harbor during Whatcom Water Week to reward pet owners for demonstrating their environmental stewardship by picking up after their pet. Like human feces, pet feces is raw sewage that contains pathogens such

as bacteria, viruses and parasites which can transmit disease to people. Left on the ground, pet feces affects the water quality of our marine waters. The best solution to pet poop pollution is to Scoop it, Bag it, and Trash it! More information is available at www.whatcomcounty.us/scoop poop

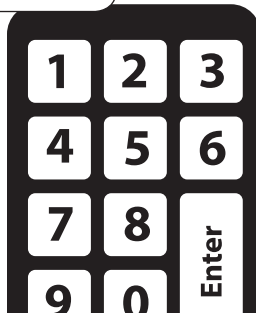


REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

Please help us keep our facilities safe. Report suspicious behavior immediately to the harbor office. Please do not give out gate codes. After hours, harbor security can be contacted at the phone numbers listed on the bottom of the back page. In an emergency, call 911 immediately.

Disposal of Expired Flares

Check with the Washington State Patrol to find the nearest location that will accept expired flares. Don't throw expired flares in your regular garbage receptacle as they contain toxic materials that can't be mixed with regular trash, just like batteries or motor oil.



Blaine Harbor Gate Codes Changing

Blaine Harbor will be changing gate codes in October. The new code will be sent by email at least one week in advance to customers who have provided us with a current email address. You may also call or stop by the harbor office to get the new code. Please do not share the gate code and send people you don't recognize to the harbor office.

WINTERWeather

Properly preparing your boat for the winter can save you from a phone call from the harbor office during a storm or worse, expensive repairs this spring. Here are some suggestions for winter preparedness:

- ☐ **Check your vessel regularly** and contact the harbor office if you see a safety hazard on a neighboring boat.
- ☐ **Remove your dinghy from the water** when you have taken the last cruise of the season. This will keep it clear of marine growth and prevent it from filling with rainwater.
- ☐ **Check your dock lines and fenders regularly for chafe.**
- ☐ **Inspect your shore-power cord** and replace immediately if any defects are discovered. Only marine rated shore-power cords are permitted. The use of household extension cords is prohibited.
- ☐ **Heaters** should not be left unattended. When operating a diesel furnace ensure the exhaust is free and clear of combustible materials.
- ☐ **Check scuppers and cockpit drains** routinely to ensure they can clear water quickly.
- ☐ **Remove your sails, secure your halyards and canvas** as high winds can cause considerable damage on roller furling sails. Tie your halyards away from your mast to reduce chafe and wear.
- ☐ **Bilge pumps** should be checked to ensure they are in good operating condition. Keep your float switches free from debris and make sure your bilge is clean of fuel and oil.
- ☐ **Burglar proof your vessel** and remove all of the valuables you have on board and keep them secure at home. Small outboards are attractive to thieves. Take them home or make sure they are locked securely. Make sure all hatches and companionways are secure and locked.
- ☐ **Arrange for someone to watch your boat** if you are going to be away.
- ☐ **Update your contact information at the harbor office.**

In addition, we ask that our customers please help us reduce dockside maintenance and repairs by taking these steps:

- **Please disconnect your dock hose** from the faucet. This reduces the chances of frozen water in a hose expanding and causing damage to the faucet.
- **Please secure your dock box lid** to prevent damage in high winds.
- **Please secure your dinghy** on the dinghy rack so it does not blow away.
- **Please keep the docks and floats clear** of stored items. Dock clutter can get blown into the water in high winds and clutter causes trip hazards.

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MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

You can contact your Marina Advisory Committee Representatives by calling either the Blaine or Squalicum Harbor offices.

Jon Alexander, Peter Border, Robert Brooks, Paul Burrill, Dick Cathell, Charlie Hawkins, Loren Kapp, Jim Kyle, Byron Richards, Ross Tenant, Linda Thomson, Pinky Vargas and Julie Winkler