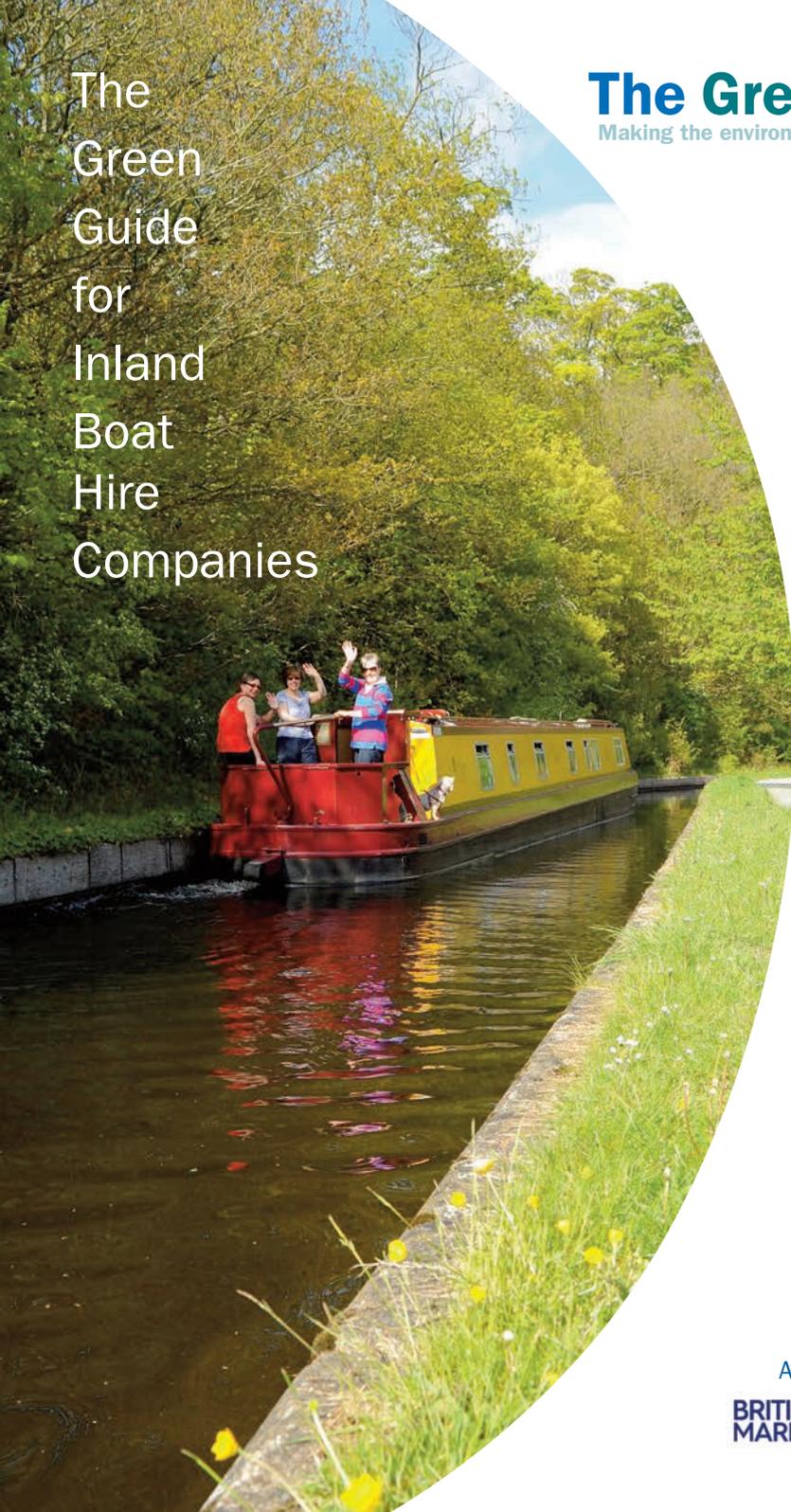


The  
Green  
Guide  
for  
Inland  
Boat  
Hire  
Companies

**The Green Blue**  
Making the environment second nature

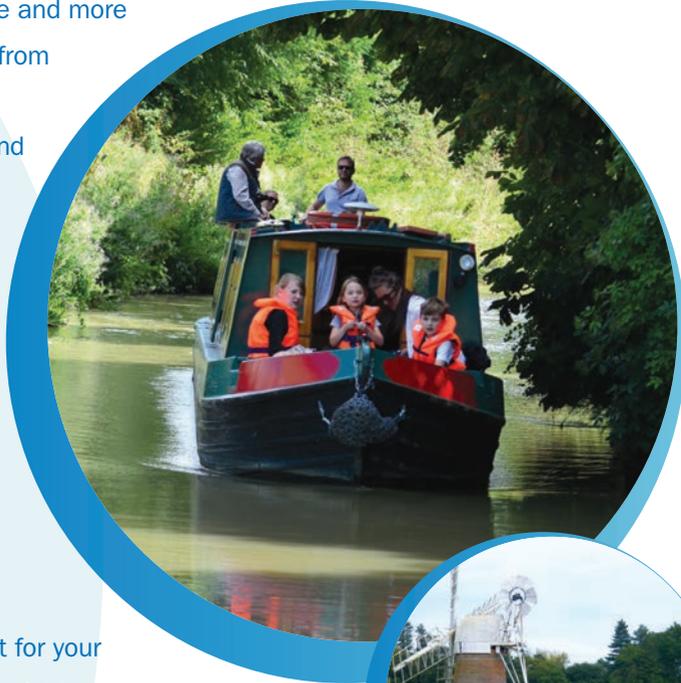


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# The Green Guide for Inland Boat Hire Companies

It's easy to see why more and more people are getting away from everyday stresses by escaping to the peace and tranquillity of the UK's beautiful canals and inland waterways. But with over 100 boat hire companies in the UK, more customers mean more pressure on the environment so it goes without saying that looking after the natural environment is important for your business. With the help of this quick guide, we hope that you will be able to promote responsible, sustainable boating at its best.



## Setting the standard

The standard you set on board will be followed by your customers. The key is to make it easy, with clear information and products. Have a simple environmental policy on display for everyone to see. Contact The Green Blue if you would like help to develop one. During handover, ask customers to follow a 'nothing overboard' policy, to recycle and turn off taps, lights and appliances when not in use.

## Practical changes

Take a look at The Green Directory for some useful products you might like to install on board, such as water saving aerated shower heads, energy saving light bulbs, environmentally friendly cleaning and maintenance products, and renewable energy equipment. [www.sailingnetworks.com/green](http://www.sailingnetworks.com/green)

## Refuelling

If customers are required to refuel, show them how and equip them with a fuel collar and a spill kit just in case! Ask them not to squirt washing up liquid onto the spill to disperse it as this causes more damage to the environment.



## Black water and grey water

Sanitation systems must be sealed when entering freshwater navigations so that no toilet waste is discharged overboard. Show customers how to use a pump out station or

Elsan Point if they need to do so during their hire period. You should also provide a list of places where tanks can be emptied. Grey water from sinks, showers and washing machines may be discharged but it is important that strong cleaning agents containing toxic ingredients and cooking oil are not discharged.



## Cleaning on board

Ensure washing up liquid and cleaning products on board are free of phosphates, bleach, ammonia and chlorine which are harmful to the environment and human health!

## Waste disposal

Make it easy for customers to recycle on board by providing clear guidelines and separate waste containers. Also provide information on recycling points along the way.

## Responsible boat handling

Provide guidance on how to manoeuvre boats at sensible speeds to avoid disturbing banks and the shallows where habitats are often more sensitive to excessive wake, contact or noise.



## Engine bay

The engine bay will contain hydrocarbons from oil or diesel which could escape when the bilges are pumped. Install an 'inline' bilge filter which extracts the hydrocarbons before the bilge water is pumped or place a bilge sock in the engine bay to absorb pollutants.

## Seasonal maintenance

All boats require maintenance and this usually involves work being done on the hard. Debris and scrapings from this work often include toxic materials so to ensure these do not enter the water cover drains that run back into the water basin or river. Put down a tarpaulin to collect debris which can then be swept up and disposed of in a hazardous or special waste bin.

## Invasive non-native species

When your boats are lifted for maintenance, anti-foul or blacking, it is a good opportunity to check for invasive non-native species that may be clinging to the hull or hiding in drainage holes. It is especially important to check if you are moving the boat to a new stretch of water. Stopping the spread of these species is important to protect native species and to keep waterways clear for ease of navigation.

## The Green Blue

The Green Blue is a UK wide programme created by British Marine and the Royal Yachting Association in 2005 to enable the UK recreational boating sector to decrease its impact on the environment by:

- Raising awareness amongst industry and users
- Reducing harmful discharges
- Reducing environmental disturbance
- Encouraging sustainable choices

For more information visit our website  
**[www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk)**



## The Green Blue

RYA House, Ensign Way  
Hamble, Southampton  
SO31 4YA

Tel: 023 8060 4100

Fax: 023 8060 4294

[info@thegreenblue.org.uk](mailto:info@thegreenblue.org.uk)

[www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk)

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