

## Is It All Just Shades of Green?

Everywhere you look, there are new environmental programs, products, and commitments. One of the more important, in terms of the total amount of polluted run-off caused by pleasure boat maintenance, is the Clean Marina Initiative, overseen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps marina operators adopt and maintain environmentally responsible practices. It's administered at the individual state level, not the national. See [www.cleanmarinas.noaa.gov](http://www.cleanmarinas.noaa.gov).

As for green products, there are literally dozens coming into the market every month—more than *PS* can possibly cover. Manufacturers like Thetford and Star brite have released entire lines of eco-friendly maintenance products.

How can we tell if a manufacturer is just slapping the word "Green!" on some old retread? There's a new program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called the Design for

the Environment (DfE) Program, which aims to reduce the load of harmful chemicals used in the making of a wide range of industrial and consumer products, and also to encourage energy-efficient procedures. Products that make the grade can carry the DfE logo to show that they meet the DfE's strict criteria for eco-friendliness.

Among the marine companies making concerted efforts to adhere to DfE criteria is Spray Nine, which has just come out with the Green Marine Multi-Purpose Cleaner. Not only is the formula biodegradable and non-toxic, but the plastic bottle is made from "100% post-consumer regrind." Good effort. We look forward to trying it out. Meanwhile, see [www.epa.gov/dfe](http://www.epa.gov/dfe) for more information.

