

Shrink-Wrap Recycling

Out of the landfills

Every year in Ohio, hundreds of thousands of pounds of shrink wrap are removed from boats. Historically, much of this material ended up in landfills. In 2006, the Ohio Clean Marinas Program, together with Mondo Polymer Technologies Inc., began a shrink-wrap recycling program. This program offered marina owners and boaters a cost-effective and eco-friendly alternative to disposing of boat shrink wrap.

A little perspective



In the first three years of the program, 765,000+ pounds of boat shrink wrap was recycled from over 100 Ohio marinas. That is equivalent to the landfill space of 16 fifty-passenger school buses. It would be enough to cover Ohio's 312 mile Lake Erie shoreline with a 14-foot-wide strip of plastic. Recycled, this plastic produced about 109,000 guide rail spacer blocks, enough to line 136 miles of highway.

Growing participation

Collection of shrink wrap for recycling more than doubled between the first and second years of the program. A new record was made in 2008, with over 300,000 pounds recycled. However, until shrink wrap from every boat in Ohio is recycled, there is still room for improvement.

How to recycle shrink wrap

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the growing number of boaters recycling their shrink wrap, here are some simple steps to follow:

1. Remove non-shrink-wrap material – Remove nylon strapping, lumber, metal zippers, vents, rope, and all other non-shrink-wrap materials (batteries, soda cans, screws, nails, etc.). The doors and vents may be reusable next year.
2. Keep it clean – Avoid dirtying with gravel, sand, soil, etc. These impurities may disrupt the recycling process.
3. Bundle – Roll the shrink wrap into a 5-foot-long bundle, similar to a rolled-up sleeping bag. Tie the bundle with a strip of shrink wrap cut from the end (see diagram on back page). While rolling, try to keep the shrink wrap clean.



4. Deliver – **Option A** - If you are docked at a Lake Erie marina, find out if your marina currently participates in a shrink-wrap recycling program. If so, place the rolled shrink wrap in the designated container marked "SHRINK WRAP ONLY." If not, encourage the managers to consider participating. More information can be found at our website: ohiocleanmarina.osu.edu. **Option B** – In an effort to make shrink-wrap recycling more readily accessible to all boaters, the following marinas have agreed to serve as drop-off locations for the general public:

Beaver Park Marina	6101 West Erie Ave.	Lorain, OH
Brenner 75 at Harrisons Marina	3840 North Summit St.	Toledo, OH
Catawba Landing	2021 NE Catawba Rd.	Port Clinton, OH
Geneva State Park Marina	Padanarum Rd.	Geneva, OH
Sandusky Harbor Marina	1 Huron St.	Sandusky, OH
Spitzer Riverside	485 California Ave.	Lorain, OH
Venetian Marina	2035 First St.	Sandusky, OH

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Ohio Clean Marinas

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Ohio Clean Boaters

www.ohiocleanboater.osu.edu

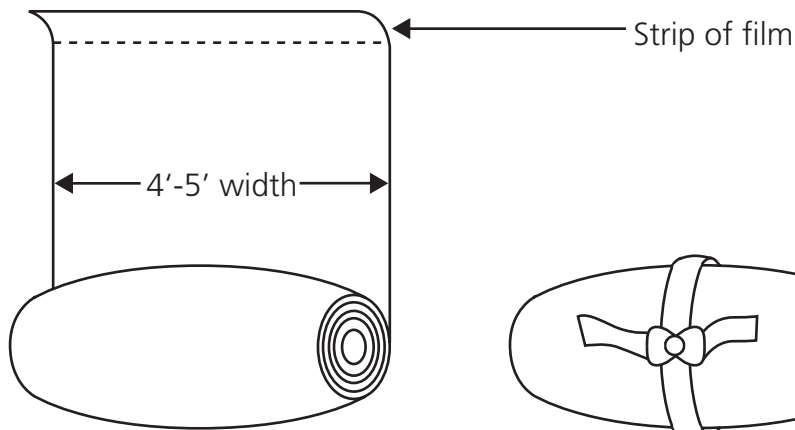
Ohio Sea Grant

www.ohioseagrant.osu.edu

Shrink-wrap recycling is only one of many best boater practices. To find out about more ways you can be a steward to the environment, please visit our Clean Boater website—ohiocleanboater.osu.edu—and consider taking the pledge to become an Ohio Clean Boater.

How to recycle shrink wrap:

1. Remove non-shrink-wrap material.
2. Keep shrink wrap as clean as possible and free of debris.
3. Bundle shrink wrap and tie for convenient storage.
4. Deliver bundle to designated marina and container.



(1) Fold the film into a width of 4-5 feet, roll the film up and then cut off a strip of film from the end of the roll.

(2) Use the strip of film to tie the bundle.

