

## Boat Washing Guidelines

It is important to wash our boats every time they are used. The brackish water of the Navesink is particularly hard on our boats. Not only does washing make a boat look better, but also a good washing will help extend its life. A few guidelines:

- Wash your boat on boat stretchers, not on the boat racks. Racked boats tend to get only the outward-facing side washed well and some surfaces may not get touched at all.
- Rinse off the mud and sand before using a sponge and soap. This removes particles that would otherwise scratch the finish. Then use a sponge and soapy water to clean the boat, followed by a final rinse. If needed, environment-friendly soap is stored in the shed and a little in the bucket goes a long way.
- Be sure to rinse out the cockpit and boat shoes. Likewise, clean the seat tracks of sand to extend the life of the seat wheels. If your boat has a self-bailer (such as the Maas 24 I-boats), rinse it as well. Dirty self-bailers will leak. To prevent corrosion, rinse the oarlocks to remove any salt water that may have gotten around the pins.
- Don't forget to wash the oars. Hose them down from handle to blade.