

# Shrink Wrap

## Potential Environmental Impacts:

Shrink wrap is a low-density polyethylene (LDPE) cocoon used by many boaters to protect their boats during storage and land transport. LDPE is made from petroleum, a limited nonrenewable resource, and is not biodegradable. If disposed it takes up disposal capacity at landfills or trash to energy plants.

## Legal Requirements:

- Shrink wrap must be managed as solid waste [CGS § 22a-207(3)]. See Appendix D for more information.

LDPE boat shrink wrap can be recycled and used to manufacture new products such as: plastic bags, composite lumber (decking, docks, benches, etc), lawn edging, plastic banners, etc.

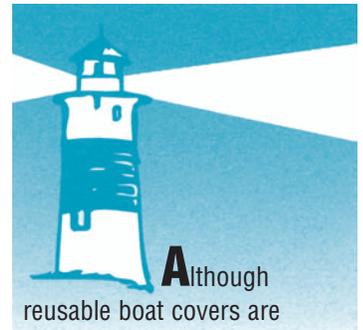
Recycling shrink wrap instead of disposing it may reduce overall waste disposal costs, and realizes environmental benefits over disposal i.e. saves energy, reduces green house gas emissions; helps conserve natural resources; reduces both air and water pollution and conserves water use.

## Best Management Practices:

- ✦ Use and encourage customers to use reusable covers (such as canvas or reusable plastic tarps);
- ✦ If using shrink wrap, explore options to recycle the used plastic covers.
  - There are recycling processors in Connecticut which can aggregate the material; prepare it to market specifications and market the material to manufacturers and other end users. Work with your hauler or self-haul the material hauled to those facilities. Call the CT DEP Office of Source Reduction and Recycling at (860) 424-3365 if you need more information; or
  - Check if your shrink wrap manufacturer will recycle their used product. Some companies recycle used shrink wrap. The following list is not an endorsement of the companies, but offered for your information:
    - Buffalo Shrink Wrap, 11342 Main Street, East Amherst, NY 14051, (800) 792-8819 [www.buffaloshrinkwrap.com](http://www.buffaloshrinkwrap.com)
    - Dockside Boat Reconditioning, (401) 351-7130 [www.canvaslink.com/cnews.htm](http://www.canvaslink.com/cnews.htm)
    - Dr. Shrink, 1606 State Street, Manistee, MI 49660-1855, 1-800-968-5147 [dfshrink@dr-shrink.com](mailto:dfshrink@dr-shrink.com), or [www.dr-shrink.com](http://www.dr-shrink.com)
- ✦ Coordinate a regional recycling pickup of used shrink wrap with your waste hauler.

## Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

- ✓ Do you recycle used shrink wrap or encourage customers to cover their boats with reusable canvas?



**A**lthough reusable boat covers are environmentally preferable to disposable covers, recycling is an environmentally valuable option for dealing with waste material that cannot be reused

YES NO N/A