

# Maryland's Marine Sewage Pumpout



## Grant Application How-To Guide



Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Watershed and Climate Services  
580 Taylor Avenue, E-2  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Contact Information:  
Toll Free in Maryland 1-877-620-8DNR ext. 8772 or 410-260-8772  
Web: [dnr.maryland.gov/boating](http://dnr.maryland.gov/boating)  
Program Manager Email: [pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov)



This program is funded by boaters, through the Clean Vessel Act Program (CVA),  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and through State Waterway Improvement Funds.

Updated April 2026

# Understanding the Pumpout Grant Program

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to thank you for beginning the process that will result in your marina having a marine sewage pumpout facility. We appreciate your participation in this program and our staff stands ready to assist you in any way we can. Marinas that install these systems provide boaters with a proper method of disposing of their sewage and thus contribute to protecting Maryland waters.

*Per CFR §200.331 Requirements*

*CFDA Number: 15.616 Clean Vessel Act Funding via U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*Federal Award Date: 7/1/2025. This funding is not R & D. This project is a sub-award to approved applicants from the Department of Natural Resources from Clean Vessel Act grant award F25AP02642-00*

## What is the Pumpout Grant Program and How Much is Available?

This program is **funded by boaters** through the [Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund](#) (75%) with matching funds from the Maryland Waterway Improvement Fund (25%). A portion of taxes boaters pay on new boats, fishing tackle, and fuel go into the national Trust Fund and boaters pay into the state Waterway Improvement Fund when they pay excise tax on a boat in Maryland. DNR receives grants from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and we provide sub-grants to marinas for pumpouts. Therefore, there are some conditions explained in the Pumpout Grant Application and Agreement.

Essentially, Maryland's pumpout grant program allows a marina to receive a reimbursement of up to \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of a pumpout. Installing such a system at your marina will give boaters a proper method of disposing of their sewage and thus prevent it from entering Maryland's waters. If you are interested in upgrading or replacing your current system, there is additional funding available, up to \$20,000. Exceptions to these limits are considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Other Frequently Asked Questions

This program's basic requirements are contained in the Grant Application and Agreement; however, we thought it would be useful to answer some of the most commonly asked questions. If you have more questions, please call us at (410) 260-8772. We will be happy to help you with any questions or concerns.

### 1) What pumpout would be best for my marina?

Because DNR is a state agency, we cannot recommend any particular brand or company. We are happy, however, to discuss your marina's situation with you and to offer you general guidance. Note-DNR staff are not engineers or plumbers. We only ask that whatever system you select have the capability of pumping out boat holding tanks and properly disposing of portable toilet waste (required by state law below). Acceptable choices include systems with portable toilet dump stations (that work essentially like toilets) and systems with wand attachments (that pump out the portable toilets).

Before you select a system, we suggest that you review your needs with a couple of different equipment representatives and receive assurance (preferably in writing) that it will perform "as advertised" at your marina (with particular concern to the distance the sewage will be pumped, the number of turns, and any vertical pump distance).

Given the environment the pumpout will be placed in, rust prevention and winterization requirements are also concerns. A Performance Testing Study done by Underwriters Laboratories that tested different pumpout units from a variety of manufacturers is available upon request at [pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov) or by calling 410-260-8772.

### 2) Is my marina required to have a pumpout station?

Maybe. The Maryland Annotated Code, Environment Article §9-333 states: "By July 1, 1997 a marina that berths any vessel that is over 22 feet in length and has *50 or more slips* shall have a pump-out facility and a waste reception facility on-site that is operable, adequate to handle any existing and increased flows, and accessible at reasonable times."

### 3) What permits are needed to install a pumpout?

The waste disposal method for the sewage must be approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the local jurisdiction (town or county) --typically the health department. Additionally, in most cases plumbing and electrical permits are required by the local jurisdiction for the work required to install a new pumpout station.



#### **4) How do I get approval from DNR for a pumpout grant?**

DNR accepts sub-grant applications that contain the items shown on page 4 and that are approved by the local health department and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Our grant manager will assist you in obtaining the necessary approvals. Federal rules also require that DNR conduct a risk assessment on our applicants, which is explained on page 4 as well.

#### **5) Can I get a portable pumpout? What about slip side pumpouts?**

Portable pumpouts are eligible for grant funding but marinas are limited to charging \$5 per pumpout, just as with stationary pumpouts. Slip-side pumpout systems are rarely approved because they usually benefit only marina slip holders and not the general boating public. If you are interested in such a system, call the grant manager to discuss it at 410-260-8772.

#### **6) What are the different installation options available? Can I use in-house labor to install it?**

Installation labor most often is an issue in new, “first-time” pumpout projects. Not all contractors do both plumbing and electrical work, and some marinas are located in rural areas, where it may be difficult to obtain bids. Therefore, applicants have a choice whether to have contractors do the labor or to do the labor in-house. If contractors do the labor, then competitive bids are required as noted below.

When one contractor is going to complete the entire installation, then three competitive bids are required. If two or more contractors are to be used (to complete different portions of the installation), then at least two competitive bids are required for each portion to be completed by a contractor. For example, if both a plumber and an electrician are required, then at least two plumbing bids and two electrical bids should be obtained.

Concerning labor that is completed in-house, the basic rule is that DNR only reimburses marinas for approved out-of-pocket expenses specific and necessary to the installation of a pumpout (such as the salaries of marina employees for the time spent on the project). We do not reimburse for any “mark-up” such as you would charge a customer and proper documentation/proof of payment to the employee(s) is required prior to any reimbursement from DNR. Federal rules also prohibit DNR from reimbursing marina owners for work done on the pumpout. If you’re thinking of “doing it yourself,” give us a call and we’ll talk about it.

#### **7) If a marina has a problem paying the money “up-front” can special arrangements be made to help finance an installation?**

DNR is only allowed to reimburse a marina for the costs associated with purchasing and installing a pumpout. We cannot “up-front” the money. You can, however, arrange with us to receive partial reimbursements for equipment. Installation expenses are only reimbursed after a final inspection of the project is complete. You can even obtain a short-term loan from a bank and use the grant contract as collateral (sorry, we can’t pay any interest).

#### **8) How does a marina submit for its reimbursement and how long does it take to get the money?**

DNR needs to verify that the project is complete and operational before we release the final reimbursement money to you. When you receive approval to purchase and install a pumpout, we will provide you with a blank invoice form(s). Simply fill out this form, attach suitable proof of payments, and call us when the project is complete to set up an appointment for an inspection. You may present us with your reimbursement paperwork at the time of the inspection. You should receive your reimbursement in 4-6 weeks. Note: an inspection is not needed to receive a partial reimbursement for the purchase of pumpout equipment (as discussed above).

A suitable proof of payment is a copy of a canceled check, bank statement, a vendor’s invoice marked “Paid in Full”, dated and signed by an authorized representative of the company to whom you paid the money. **Applicants are asked to provide a current W-9 form with your official business name, address and tax identification number with your application. Grant recipients must also have a current Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number available at [sam.gov](https://sam.gov).**



# GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

1. **APPLICATION** Read the [Pumpout Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions](#) and ensure you are willing and able to comply with the terms of this agreement before applying for a grant. Work with the grant to discuss your project as you work on the application. Contact [pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov) or call 410-260-8772.

2. **SELECT EQUIPMENT** Research pumpout equipment (see pages 2 and 5) and determine the equipment best suited to your location. It's recommended that you talk to more than one vendor.

3. **INSTALLATION BIDS** If you are simply *replacing* an old pumpout using existing plumbing and wiring, a factory approved equipment sales representative may be able to install it. If the replacement work requires a licensed electrician or plumber, then follow steps for a first-time installation. When a new pumpout is installed for the first time, it will require new plumbing and electrical work, and you must obtain 3 comparable bids from contractors licensed to do business in Maryland as explained above (pg. 3) as well as applicable permits. Building materials used must comply with Build America, Buy America regulations (see Grant Application & Agreement Terms). Licensed contractors can be found at [dllr.state.md.us/license/](http://dllr.state.md.us/license/) *All estimates must contain the same scope of work from all vendors.* DNR will expect you to use the lowest bidder unless you provide written justification to the grant manager and receive approval. Prior to project approval you will need to provide copies of local plumbing and/or electrical permits, as applicable, to DNR. See pg. 3 concerning use of in-house labor and discuss this with the grant manager if applicable.

4. **PROPOSAL** Write a short proposal describing the project to DNR. Explain why you are selecting certain equipment, where the sewage will be directed, what type of boats will be served and explain why it is needed. (See Sample Proposal on pg. 6.) Attach a current price quote for the equipment you have selected. **Proposal Must Include:**

- **Current** (less than 30 days old) quotes for the pumpout unit and all associated equipment for which you are seeking grant funding (with prices).
- **Current, competitive** bids for installation if needed. Bids must contain the same scope of work.
- Total estimated project cost.
- Copies of any required permits (e.g., plumbing, electrical).
- Project map/diagram explained below.

5. **MAP** Provide a sketch or map of the marina indicating where the pumpout and any associated equipment will be located, where it will discharge, the length of any piping runs, and the feet of elevation. If you are seeking funding to purchase a waste holding tank, indicate where it will be kept on your map. (See Sample Map on page 7.)

6. **WASTE DISPOSAL APPROVAL FORM** This form ensures the local health department and Maryland Department of the Environment approve of the sewage disposal method (either holding tank and truck, or direct sewer connection). The Coordinated Environmental Review Form is **obtained from the grant manager**. The grant manager will help you obtain the approvals required on the form. Approval must be obtained before the grant application can be approved.

7. **PUMPOUT GRANT APPLICATION & AGREEMENT:** Using the information above, complete an [Application and Agreement](#) using your official business name, tax ID, and UEI#, sign and date it. [UEI# is obtained at sam.gov](#). **Submit all items above as one packet** to [pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov). **Do not purchase anything for the project until you receive a letter approving your grant request!** Contact grant manager if you need help obtaining a UEI#.

**After reviewing the application packet, the grant manager will ask for two more items required by federal regulation:**

8. **RISK ASSESSMENT** The grant manager will ask you to complete an online risk assessment form as *required* by federal funding rules. The assessment looks at the marina's experience with past grants (if any) and other factors to determine if DNR needs to take additional steps to reduce risk of non-compliance with the terms of federal funding.

9. **BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA Certification** The grant manager may ask you or your selected contractors to sign a certification that the equipment and materials proposed for your project comply with the Build America, Buy America Act. (See Grant Application and Agreement).

10. **APPROVAL AND GO** Finally! Once the grant manager has everything above, you will receive written approval of your project according to everything you provided. You will also receive blank invoice forms to submit your reimbursement request(s). Grants are available for up to one year after the date they are approved. After one year, funds may be reverted and you will have to reapply.



# Vendors of Pumpout Equipment

The Department of Natural Resources neither recommends nor endorses any company. Companies can be added by contacting [pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov). **An Underwriters Laboratories report on the operational effectiveness of various pumpout equipment is also available upon request to [pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:pumpouts.dnr@maryland.gov)** Independent research may yield other results. Last updated October, 2025. **Federally grant funded pumps must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA). Vendors who have documented compliance with BABAA are noted below with \*.**

## AIRVAC

4217 N. Old U.S. 31  
P.O. Box 528  
Rochester, IN 46975  
(800) AIRVAC9  
<https://www.airvac.com/en/>  
email: [info@airvac.com](mailto:info@airvac.com)

## EDSON INTERNATIONAL, INC.\*

Pump Division  
146 Duchaine Boulevard  
New Bedford, MA 02745  
(508) 995-9711  
[www.edsonpumps.com](http://www.edsonpumps.com)  
email: [pumps@edsonintl.com](mailto:pumps@edsonintl.com)  
*Local Edson Representative:*  
Environmental Water Technologies, LLC  
[www.Ewth2o.com](http://www.Ewth2o.com)  
Bill Weyant  
410-322-6701  
[weyantb@ewth2o.com](mailto:weyantb@ewth2o.com)

## EMP INDUSTRIES—SANI SAILOR\*

1330 2nd Street So.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
727-821-7867  
[www.bestmarinepumps.com](http://www.bestmarinepumps.com)  
email: [sales@empind.net](mailto:sales@empind.net)

## JONNY TRAP\*

Far Products, Inc.  
2300 Napoleon Road  
Fremont, OH 43420  
(419) 332-8286  
[www.pumpoutsys.com](http://www.pumpoutsys.com)  
email: [far@pumpoutsys.com](mailto:far@pumpoutsys.com)

## KECO, INC.\*

P.O. Box 80308  
San Diego, CA 92138  
(800) 900-PUMP  
[www.pumpahead.com](http://www.pumpahead.com)  
email: [sales@pumpahead.com](mailto:sales@pumpahead.com)

## WASTECORP PUMPS\*

2391 Baseline Road #70  
Grand Island, NY 14072  
(888) 829-2783  
[www.wastecorp.com](http://www.wastecorp.com)  
email: [info@wastecorp.com](mailto:info@wastecorp.com)

## WAUBAUSHENE MACHINE & WELDING

P.O. Box 99, 111 Coldwater  
Waubauskene, Ontario  
Canada L0K2C0  
(800) 663-1624  
[www.wmwpump.com](http://www.wmwpump.com)  
U.S. Distributor: Martin Walter Co.  
(781) 878-1216  
[support@wmwpump.com](mailto:support@wmwpump.com)  
*U.S. Distributor:*  
Martin Walter Co.  
(781) 878-1216  
[info@wmwpump.com](mailto:info@wmwpump.com)  
[www.walterco.com](http://www.walterco.com)

***\*Build America, Buy America Act Compliance statement on file with Maryland DNR as of October 2025.***



# Sample Proposal

YOUR LETTERHEAD

May 5, 2026

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Watershed and Climate Services  
Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor, Ave. E-2  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Pumpout Program Manager:

ABC Marina proposes to purchase and install a Jones Manufacturing Company Model XYZ100 pumpout facility. The system comes with a wand to empty portable toilets.

The pump will be mounted on a concrete pad next to the marina office and a remote pedestal will be installed at the end of our fuel dock (see attached). The sewage will be pumped from the pedestal, through approximately 250 ft. of 2" PVC pipe to the pump on shore. The pump will discharge to the sewer which is adjacent to the pump. Jones Manufacturing has received our plans and assures us that the pump will perform satisfactorily.

Two plumbing and two electric bids were obtained (copies enclosed) with Henderson Plumbing and Michael's Electric being the low bidders. A summary of the projected costs is included:

Jones Manufacturing Co. Model XYZ100 pump	\$11,450
Henderson Plumbing	\$ 1,580
Michael's Electric	\$ 950
County Permit	\$ 100
	<u>\$14,080</u>

The pumpout will be open to the general public from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Mon- Fri and 7:00 am - 7:00 pm Sat and Sun. We will be charging \$5.00 per customer for pumpout with the exception of slip holders and those purchasing fuel.

Sincerely,

Jeff Smith, Dockmaster  
ABC Marina



# Sample Sketch

**INCLUDE:**

- diagram of property and docks,
- arrow indicating North
- length of plumbing run(s) from pedestal to pump and from pump to discharge point (if applicable)



