

## **Best Practices for Recycling Boat Wrap**

Boat wrap recycling programs vary from marina to marina, with some programs involving the sale of large plastic bags to collect the used material and others opting for on-site collection bins. Whichever program it is, there are some basic Best Practices that can be followed to ensure that marinas end up with a stream of high-quality material. This material, in turn, will be easier to market.

### **These best practices include:**

- 1) Investigate end market opportunities and decide upon one or more end markets prior to starting any boat wrap recycling program. By doing this work beforehand, you can make sure that the material meets the end market's specifications (i.e. no blue or clear wrap included).
- 2) Remove all rope, strapping, wood frames, doors, zippers and other non-shrink plastic materials.
- 3) Roll the shrink wrap into a bundle of about five feet long (like a sleeping bag) and tie it with a strip of the shrink wrap. This helps avoid contamination from other materials.
- 4) If the shrink wrap is cut just above the horizontal belly band, all of the string will separate instantly. Dispose of this string in a regular dumpster.
- 5) Keep the shrink wrap dry and clean – no mud, rainwater, leaves, etc.
- 6) Put signs on the regular garbage dumpsters reminding people about the recycling of shrink wrap.
- 7) If using roll-off containers, used closed ones to help avoid contamination and to keep materials dry. Dry materials will warrant higher market prices.
- 8) Encourage as many people as possible to participate in the recycling program and stress the importance of maintaining a good quality of uncontaminated material. Use flyers or hand outs to remind people if necessary.

