

What are BMPs?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are ways that we can change our behavior on land to prevent or reduce pollution in the groundwater, bays and rivers.

BMPs are simple and are beneficial to the health of humans and wildlife. Using these practices will help improve water quality and support healthier ecosystems by protecting our estuary against pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil and gas products, and hazardous materials.



S.T.O.P Stop Throwing Out Pollutants

Help the environment by properly disposing of hazardous household material at Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (S.T.O.P.) events.



Each town has different S.T.O.P. dates throughout the year. Check PEP's website and social media channels for more information.



Email: peptalk@peconicestuary.org

Website: peconicestuary.org



**Simple Ways
To Protect
The Peconic Estuary**

Leave No Trace

- **Leave only footprints.**
Stick to marked trails to avoid harming native flora.
- **Buy local.**
- **Throw out any garbage** you bring to the park or beach.
- **Clean up** your pet's waste.
- **Keep a respectful distance from wildlife** and never feed wildlife for any reason.



Peconic Friendly Boating



- **Avoid eelgrass** meadows and abide by speed zones.
- **Use pump out stations.**
- Avoid introducing invasive species to new areas by following these **tips for your watercraft:**

Check
Clean
Disinfect
Drain
Dry

Do at Home

- Plant low maintenance **native plants** or install a **rain barrel** to **reduce runoff** to our bays.
- **Wash your car over a patch of grass** or take it to a car wash.
- **Use natural** cleaning products.
- **Update your septic system** or cesspool.
- **Properly dispose** of old unused medication at your local drugstore or police department.
- **Reduce/eliminate fertilizer use;** never apply before it rains.
- **Leave grass clippings on your lawn** to supply nutrients instead.