**Lake Resident Practical Lake Protector Tips**

How can you do your part as a lake resident and recreational user?

1. **Keep your septic system healthy** – Septics are a significant source of phosphorous if not working properly! Have your septic system pumped and inspected every 2-5 years depending on its level of use. Do not allow grey water to run outside the septic system. Be conscious of what substances you flush down the drain or toilet: avoid putting fats, oils, or antibacterial products into your septic system.
2. **Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers on your lawn**. For every 1 pound of phosphorus in the water, 500 pounds of aquatic vegetation is produced.

Remember: what goes on the lawn goes into the lake.

1. **Maintain a lakeside buffer zone by not mowing or cutting along the water’s edge.** The native vegetation of trees and shrubs acts as a filter to stop excess nutrients from entering the lake, reduces erosion, and lowers water temperatures through shading. A buffer of 30 m (100 ft) is ideal, but any buffer is better than none.
2. **Be careful with soap.** The use of soaps and other detergents – even those that are biodegradable – can kill some wildlife species and create algae blooms if the suds directly enter the water. Soaps should always be phosphate-free and all dishwashing and bathing should be done on land, far away from shore. Never dispose of any toxic chemical waste down the toilet or drain. Paints, oil, gasoline, antifreeze or chlorine can be disposed of at our local hazardous waste center – for free.
3. **Don’t disturb the lake bottom or shoreline when operating your boat**. Keep your speed under 10 km/hr within 30 meters of shorelines and in depths less than 2 meters. The lake bottom and shallow shoreline contains concentrated phosphorous and nutrients. Be respectful of swimmers and other boaters – keep your distance and slow down!
4. **Clean and inspect your boat before putting it in the lake** or any other water way to control the spread of algae, toxins, and invasive aquatic species.

**Please consult: The Shore Primer**

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/337927.pdf>