

THE LAKESMART LAKER'S DOZEN

Lakes are fragile. Care for them today. Enjoy them tomorrow.



1. **Support your local lake organization!**
2. **Always check your boat, trailer and equipment for plant fragments before you launch and after take-out to avoid spreading invasive plants from lake to lake. Don't transfer water or fish from lake to lake, either; this can harm fish.**
3. **Treat your lake with care!** What happens on land ends up in the lake, so check with your town office or Code Enforcement Officer to see what's allowed and what's not next to the lake.
4. **Control storm water run-off from buildings, paths, driveways and road.** Check your property on a rainy day and fix run-off sites by planting vegetation, placing gravel and small stones, or constructing swales and rain gardens to capture runoff and soak it into the ground.
5. **Cultivate a wooded buffer beside the lake.** Trees, shrubs, and grasses protect water quality by slowing rainwater and filtering out soil and other pollutants before they are washed into the lake.
6. **Take a Break, Retire your Rake, and Save the Lake!** Limit lawn size, mow less often, leave clippings so you don't need fertilizer. Don't rake within 75 feet of shore (*It's the law!*).
7. **Limit fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use.** Long lasting chemicals in these products can harm children, pets and aquatic life. They can also feed algae and turn lakes green.
8. **Don't stress your septic system.** Check your system and pump the tank regularly as advised by your service provider. Use phosphorus-free cleaners and detergents. Stagger laundry loads. Minimize water use. Don't put toxics or grease down the drain.
9. **Use lake-friendly materials for docks.** Choose cedar, cypress, plastic, or aluminum instead of wood which has been pressure-treated with arsenic.
10. **Dogs, humans and boats should never be washed in the lake!** (Soap feeds algae!)
11. **Observe headway speed within 200 feet of shore.** Fast boating in shallow water disturbs the habitat of aquatic animals, stirs up sediment, and can destabilize the shoreline
12. **Give wildlife a chance.** Lake shallows and lands near the shoreline provide food and shelter to 60 native wildlife species and serve as nurseries for their young. Don't "Tidy them up!"
13. **Learn about LakeSmart.** This program provides site-specific suggestions to home owners for lake friendly living. Contact the Maine Lakes Society to learn how you can bring it to your lake.

Maine Lakes Society
FOR THE SAKE OF MAINE'S LAKES

Policy, Education, and Action to Protect Maine Lakes