

Checklist of Lake Protection Actions

This checklist provides guidance on actions that help protect Vermont lakes and is based on the [Lake Score Card](#).

Check-off all the helpful actions occurring around your lake. For those items not checked, decide which steps to take to maintain or help improve lake conditions. For more information, follow the links below, or contact the Lakes and Ponds Program at 802-490-6198.

Nutrient Trend and Shoreland Conditions		✓
Management Programs and Actions		
Does your lake have a Lake Association? Many lakes and ponds have associations dedicated to taking care of the lake. Join yours or consider starting one. Locate a lake association here .		
Do you know if your lake is sampled by the Spring Phosphorus monitoring program? Spring phosphorus data can predict the amount of algal growth that will occur during the summer and show if a lake's water quality is changing. To learn more, click here.		
Does your lake participate in the Lay Monitoring Program? Volunteers collect water clarity and nutrient enrichment data during the summer to document the conditions of the lake and show how the lake may be changing over time. Read more.		
Does your lake community work with the local town officials? Town Select Boards, Planning and Conservation Commissions make good partners for lakes.		
Does your lake participate in the Lake Wise Program? Shoreland owners are taught lake friendly practices which leads to earning the Lake Wise Award for excellent shoreland management. To learn more, click here.		
Does your lake community practice Shoreland BMPs? Shoreland Best Management Practices and Fact Sheets are available to explain the best techniques for developing and living along a lake. Click here for BMPs.		
Are private roads and driveways maintained according to the standards of the Better Roads Program? Read more.		
Are most septic tanks around the lake pumped every 3 to 5 years? A poor or overloaded system can introduce disease-causing organisms into the lake, resulting in a human health threat and can introduce nutrients into the lake. Here's more.		
Has your lake held a Septic Social? Septic socials are fun gatherings that showcase septic system care and improvements.		

Permitting Required for Lakes		✓
Are your lake residents informed on the Shoreland Protection Act? Vermont's Shoreland Protection Act regulates land use within 250 feet of the lake's mean water level. Click here to learn more.		
Are your lake residents aware of the Lake Encroachment Permit? A Lake Encroachment permit is required for many activities occurring in the water, including seawalls, riprap, and fill. Click here to learn more.		

Aquatic Invasive Species	✓
<p>Does your lake participate in aquatic invasive species spread prevention? To learn more about why spread prevention actions are important. Click here.</p>	
<p>Is there a VIP (Vermont Invasive Patroller) on your lake? Here's How and Why to Get Trained</p>	
<p>At public access locations, does your lake have Aquatic Invasive Species signs posted? To request signs, click here.</p>	
<p>Is there a Public Access Greeter Program at your lake? Here's more information.</p>	
<p>If your lake has an aquatic invasive species, is there a Management Program underway? Management programs are essential for controlling an invasive infestation and for preventing further spread to other areas.</p>	

Mercury in Fish Management Programs and Actions	✓
<p>Atmospheric pollution and disposal practices for hazardous wastes can release mercury into Vermont's lakes and ponds. This toxin can accumulate in fish and there are fish consumption advisories for some Vermont lakes.</p>	
<p>What legislation helps protect Vermont lakes from mercury pollution? The Federal Clean Air Act Amendments in 1990, requiring stronger emissions controls, were largely passed from Vermont lake monitoring findings. Read More.</p>	
<p>Does your Solid Waste District offer hazardous waste pick-up? Although the majority of mercury entering a lake comes from the atmosphere, mercury is also found in many household items and can leach into the environment. Click here for more information on proper disposal of household products.</p>	

Other Useful Information for Lake Residents	✓
<p>Do residents and visitors know how to recognize cyanobacteria (also called blue-green algae)? Learn about cyanobacteria in Vermont here.</p>	
<p>Do you have a wetland on your shore? Wetlands protect lake water quality and shorelines. They are also protected by law. Learn more.</p>	
<p>Have you explored your watershed using the ANR Natural Resources Atlas?</p>	
<p>Have you read your Basin Plan? Vermont is divided into 15 major water planning units. Basin plans identify important resources in each basin and the measures being taken to protect or restore them. Read more.</p>	
<p>Stay up to date with the Lakes and Ponds Program - Follow us on Facebook!</p>	
<p>Do you read the Watershed Management Division's Blog?</p>	

