

# Materials to Avoid Near the Water

Keep our lakes and ponds safe and clean by using, storing, and disposing of these materials correctly:

**Soaps & Detergents** - Some soaps contain phosphorus which can cause algae blooms that kill fish, turn the water green, and create an awful odor. Use phosphate-free soaps and detergents. There are many on the market today.

**Paints** - Dispose of old water-based paint by letting it evaporate until solid. Reuse thinners by allowing paint residues to settle out in a covered container. Then carefully pour out the "clean" thinner for later use. Bring the remaining residue and any old unwanted oil-based paint to your town's hazardous waste collection day. To avoid thinners and harmful fumes, use water based paint instead.

**Chemical Cleaners** - Use natural citrus, vinegar and baking soda based cleaners instead of harmful chemicals. If you must use chemical cleaners, use sparingly and carefully.

**Herbicides & Pesticides** - Use these products as sparingly as possible. Better yet, use safer alternatives. Remember not to apply when it is windy or before it rains.

**Oil & Gas** - Maintain your boat engine regularly and avoid spilling any fuel or oil by using funnels or other spill proof devices. Use absorbent pads in bilges and clean the boat when it is out of the water.

**Leaves & Yard "Waste"** - Pile yard wastes away from shorelines. Better yet, compost it or bring it to a place that does.

This pamphlet presents some guidelines for living responsibly on a lake or pond. Our careful stewardship will help preserve the lakes and ponds in the Lake Sunapee Watershed.

Look for other informational LSPA pamphlets presenting lakeshore landscaping suggestions, and zoning restrictions which apply to shoreland properties.



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# A Homeowner's Guide to Lakeshore Living



# LSPA

*Devoted to the Environmental Quality  
of the Lake Sunapee Watershed*

Human impact can be the single largest reason for the deterioration of a lake or pond (eutrophication). Reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria entering a lake or pond can significantly slow this process. Runoff from spring snowmelt or a storm can easily erode unstable soils. Much of this eroded soil is carried into ponds and lakes where it settles to the bottom and may suffocate organisms and deteriorate fish spawning habitats. Attached to the soil particles are nutrients which encourage plant growth. One of these nutrients, phosphorus, feeds algae and can lead to a bloom. These blooms can kill fish (by depriving them of oxygen), turn the water green, and create odors.

## Keep A Natural Shoreline

A natural shoreline with trees, shrubs, and native groundcover will keep nutrient laden sediment from entering the lake. Their roots absorb nutrients and hold the soil together, reducing erosion from storms and spring runoff.

Adding sand near the shoreline can increase the amount of sediment entering a lake or pond and should be avoided. All beach replenishment and reconstruction requires a permit from the NH Wetlands Bureau.



## Don't Feed the Waterfowl

Bacteria and phosphorus in the feces of ducks, geese, and seagulls can seriously affect the water quality of a lake or pond.

## Allow Water to Settle Into The Soil

The fewer hard surfaces there are for rainwater to collect and runoff from, the less likely there will be erosion. A greater permeable area will also allow more water to replenish groundwater aquifers.

In place of pavement or cement, use loose gravel or other permeable surfaces for paths and driveways. Another option is to install a "permeable pavement" system. These systems consist of strong honeycomb grids often made out of re-

## Avoid Fertilizers

The NH Shoreland Water Quality Shoreline Protection Act prohibits fertilizer use within the 25 ft shoreline buffer. Use no fertilizers further from the shoreline if possible especially on steep slopes. If you do fertilize beyond the 25 ft buffer area, use phosphorus-free fertilizers (middle number must equal 0 - for example 10-0-10 is a phosphorus free fertilizer). Liquid fertilizer is a better choice than solid because it is more readily absorbed into the soil and by plants. Lime may be used near the shore.

Best of all, have no lawns on the waterfront.

cycled plastic or concrete that are installed level with the ground and filled in with seeded loam or gravel.

Water coming from driveways, roofs, and ducts should be directed toward a level vegetated area where it can pool and infiltrate into the soil.

Construct meandering paths to the shoreline instead of straight ones. Meandering or curved paths allow more water to settle and permeate into the ground. A straight path is more likely to be a conduit for runoff into the lake or pond.

Use hay bales, silt fences or silt socks when doing landscaping or construction projects to trap sediment runoff.

## Maintain your Septic System

If you are not connected to a municipal sewer system, pump your septic tank every three years. If your septic system is 25 years or older there is a good chance that it is leaching pollutants. Contact the Subsurface Bureau of the NH Department of Environmental Services, for assistance and advice.

Do not pour any chemicals or septic tank cleaners down the drain or into toilets. Naturally occurring beneficial bacteria that live in your septic tank can be killed.