



Quick Tips for Protecting Our Lake and Stream

1. **Clean-Drain-Dry.** Cooperate with courtesy boat inspectors when present. Always check the boat, motor, trailer, and other equipment for plant fragments before launch and after take-out. Never wash your boat hull in the water. Drain your bilge and live wells after use. Allow your boat to dry between uses.
2. **Respect Shoreland Zone Regulations.** Before making any change on your land, check with your town to see what's permitted and what's not in the shoreland: 250' of the lake and 75' of streams.
3. **Control stormwater run-off** from buildings, paths, driveways, and road. Check your property on a rainy day and fix run-off sites by planting vegetation or constructing swales to direct water flow away from the lake.
4. **Cultivate a wooded buffer.** Trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses slow the flow, and filter soil and pollutants from rainwater before they end up in the lake. See number 2.
5. **Limit lawn size,** mow less often and don't rake duff within 75 feet of shore.
6. **Avoid fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide use.** Long-lasting residues in these chemicals can turn lakes green and harm aquatic life. Never use fertilizers containing phosphorus!
7. **Maintain your septic system.** Inspect the system yearly. Pump the tank regularly – every 3-5 years. Systems 20 years and older should be inspected by a specialist. Use phosphorus-free cleaners and detergents. Stagger laundry loads. Minimize water use. Don't put grease or toxics down the drain.
8. **Construct docks and floats with lake-friendly materials.** Choose cedar, cypress, plastic, or aluminum over wood that's pressure-treated with arsenic.
9. **The lake is not a bathtub.** Dogs, humans, and boats should never be washed in the lake!
10. **Observe headway speed within 200 feet of shore.** Boating in shallow water disturbs fish habitat and stirs up sediment. Obey wake boat state law.
11. **Avoid motoring through heavily vegetated parts of the lake and the stream.** Props will fragment the plants and can spread and increase aquatic invasive plants.
12. **When you replace a boat motor, choose a clean 4-stroke engine.**
13. **Preserve and protect wildlife habitat on land and underwater.** Lake shallows and shorelands are home to many native species and nurseries for the young.
14. **Support your Pleasant Pond-Cobbosseecontee Stream Lake Association!**

Thank you to the Tacoma Lakes Association for allowing us to borrow this document.