

# Visiting the Water's Edge

Welcome Lakeshore Property Renters!

## Tips for Protecting Vermont Lakes

All waters in Vermont are managed to preserve and protect a healthy ecosystem, as well as to guarantee the right for all to swim, fish, boat, and otherwise enjoy. Please follow the basic rules outlined here to do your part to maintain the waters and shores of Vermont in a pristine state.

### Shoreland Vegetation - Grow On!

Lakeshore plants protect against erosion, filter overland pollutants, and provide habitat for wildlife. The 2014 Shoreland Protection Act protects all vegetation within 250' of the water's edge.

**No Cutting Trees or Shrubs!**

### Aquatic Plants - Keep them Rooted

Aquatic plants provide habitat for wildlife, oxygen in the water, maintain sediments, and keep waters clear.

**No Pulling Plants!**

### Protect Native Species from Invaders

Aquatic invasive species infestations threaten the diversity and survival of native species, limit the recreational uses of a waterbody, and can result in financial challenges. Follow these guidelines:

- ◆ **Clean** and remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or organisms from boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.
- ◆ **Drain** and eliminate water from equipment including bilges, wells, coolers, snorkels, etc.
- ◆ **Dry** anything that comes into contact with water.

**Never** release plants, fish, animals, or terrarium materials into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. **All baitfish must be purchased locally.**

### Avoid Contact with Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Cyanobacteria may produce toxins harmful to people and pets. They often appear as scummy green water.

**Learn** to recognize blooms to keep everyone safe.

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### Respect the Neighbors

For all types of wildlife interactions, maintain a respectful distance and never chase wildlife, which is against the law. Avoid disturbing loons, a species often seen on Vermont waterbodies. One of the main threats to a loon's nesting success is human disturbance.



To allow loons to prosper and continue their expansion in Vermont, follow these guidelines:

- ◆ Stay away from designated nesting sites while boating.
- ◆ Keep watch and slow down for loons.
- ◆ Use only non-lead sinkers to stop lead poisoning (most lead sinkers are banned in VT).
- ◆ Reel in fishing lines to avoid entanglement or the potential for loons to ingest lures or bait.
- ◆ Report loon or any wildlife harassment to a law enforcement officer.

## Vermont Lake Resources

### VT Fish and Wildlife Department

[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

General Information (802) 828-1000

Law Enforcement (802) 828-1529

Fishing Licenses (802) 828-1190

### VT State Police - Marine Division

[vsp.vermont.gov](http://vsp.vermont.gov)

Boating Law Information (802) 244-8727

### VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation

[dec.vermont.gov](http://dec.vermont.gov)

General Information (802) 828-1556

Lakes and Ponds Mgmt. (802) 828-1535



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