

# COMMITTEE REPORTS - LAKES

Provided by: DOUG COLLINS



Here is the "top ten list of dos and don't" for Lake owners:

1. Do plant native plants/flowers at the waters edge and other gardens beds to slow down rain run off.
2. Do rake your Lake front or hire a student to do it. This will remove decaying matter from the lake which using important oxygen that the fish and native lake weed need.
3. Do have your septic tank pumped out every 2-3 years and have drain field check to ensure its working.
4. Do check to see if your septic tank has a filter, if not have it added. The filter should only cost \$100 or so. The filter will catch hair and other solid items that must not go into your drain field and could cause a blockage.
5. Do laundry 1 or 2 loads each day, avoid 10 loads in a day, doing so puts too much pressure on your septic system. Also don't run the dishwasher and the and clothes washer at the same time. Septic systems work using gravity there are no moving parts. Septic systems needs time for the wastewater to correctly move through the system completely.
6. Don't put composting food waste in a garbage disposal, doing this increases the amount of nitrogen and phosphate in the drain field and if there is a leak could go directly into the lake.  
Don't use household products with phosphate or nitrogen. Dawn dish soap has other bad chemicals for lake quality and should be avoided when possible.
7. Don't wash your dog, children, boat, etc. in the lake using any form of soap. Even if it say its biodegradable. No biodegradable soap should be used in or near a lake (per MSU lake quality stewardship group).
8. Don't allow grass clippings or leaves from your mower into the lake.
9. Don't drain your swimming pool into the lake. The chemicals used in the pool are not good for the lakes quality and has the potential to harm fish and native weeds.
10. Do not use fertilizer anywhere on the water shed. Whether you live on the lake front or off the lake (for example Eaglehurst, Valley Park, Belaire, Southhill, etc.) the fertilizer runoff is going into the lake through the watershed drainage system.

Thank you to all; for thinking about Good Lake Quality!