



The LakeSmart Program

Cyanobacteria: Lake Protection Actions for Homeowners

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NH LAKES



NH LAKES is a nonprofit organization that is the voice for all of New Hampshire's 1,000 lakes.



We work with local groups, state legislators, and individuals to develop programs and policies and to inspire action to restore and preserve our lakes.





Our vision is a New Hampshire where all our lakes are clean and healthy, and caring for them is a way of living, doing business, and governing.

Our Programs



Advocacy



Conservation



Outreach



In 2019, we launched the LakeSmart Program to teach people, like you, how to save the lake they love.



The goal? Educate and equip property owners with the knowledge to make informed choices.



We want to create a social norm of lake-friendly living across New Hampshire communities.





How does it work?

Step 1: Take the online self-assessment at nhlakes.org/lakesmart. You can begin implementing our recommendations right away!



How does it work?

Step 2: Get a free and confidential property visit from a trained LakeSmart Guide.



How does it work?

Step 3: Work with us to earn the LakeSmart award!

What Does The LakeSmart Program Evaluate?



1. Driveways and Parking Areas
2. Structures and Wastewater Treatment System
3. Yard, Recreation Areas, and Footpaths
4. Shoreline and Water Access





What can you start doing on your property?



Maintain your septic system (and leach field!)

- Get regular pump-outs AND inspections
- Keep your leach field clear of woody vegetation
- Don't park vehicles on your leach field



Lake-friendly lawn care

- Let your grass grow longer
- Add clover!
- Test your soil
- Create “no-mow” areas







Enhance your shoreline buffer

- Incorporate native species like buttonbush, elderberry, blueberry, speckled alder, sweet pepperbush, and Joe pye weed

Cover bare soil to prevent erosion

- Plant where you can!
- Use raw wood chips, erosion control mulch, or crushed stone
- Leave your leaves





Other DIY recommendations

- Driveway and dripline infiltration trenches
- Infiltration steps
- Rain barrels

LakeSmart Resources

- LakeSmart Book (order online, free!)
- LakeSmart Resource Library
- Service Providers

nhlakes.org/lakesmart





Don't forget!

LakeSmart is:

- Free
- Voluntary
- Non-regulatory
- Fun!

nhlakes.org/lakesmart