

## Responsible Lake Recreation

Alberta's lakes are one of our most treasured resources, as they can support sizeable fish populations, and attract waterfowl and wildlife. Lakes provide opportunities for swimming, boating, fishing, wildlife watching and much more. As our population grows, the demand for recreational access to lakes also increases. Although lakes change naturally over time, human activities can dramatically affect the health of a lake.

There are many things you can do to reduce your recreational impacts to Alberta lakes to ensure they remain healthy and safe for everyone to enjoy.

### Boating

- Know the speed limit! Keep boat speeds under 10km/hour within 30 metres of the shoreline and follow posted speed limits.
- Keep your wake small near swimming and high-use areas.
- Enjoy motorized sports far from the shore to prevent erosion and protect nests. Many birds nest along the shoreline, such as the western grebe, a species at risk.
- Use the public boat launches and docks as provided. Privately owned docks are not for public use.
- Keep music and boat noise to a minimum.
- Refuel your boat away from the water or use a spill control device if filling your tank on the water. Be prepared to clean up a gas or oil leak if it occurs.
- Clean, Drain, Dry all equipment and watercraft to avoid the spread of invasive species and diseases.
- Pull the Plug—Remove the drain plug while transporting watercraft—it's the law!

### Fishing

- Be a responsible angler. Handle fish with care and consider using barbless hooks.
- Follow the regulations. Fishing regulations in Alberta are designed to manage fish populations and increase survival of fish that are caught and released.
- Remove ice fishing huts before the end of the season—you can be fined for not doing so!

### Other important tips:

- Dispose of human and animal waste properly when recreating on or near a lake.
- Do not swim or wade (or allow your pets to swim or wade) in any areas where blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) is visible.
- Keep “wheels out of water”—driving off-highway vehicles along the bed and shore of any waterbody is illegal, damages important fish and wildlife habitat and impacts water quality.
- Leave plants, waterfowl and other wildlife where you find them.





# Respect Our Lakes

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For more information about lake health and lake stewardship, visit:

### Environment and Parks

[aep.alberta.ca](http://aep.alberta.ca) (search 'Respect our Lakes')

[AEP.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AEP.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca)

Or call: 310-3773

For environmental complaints/emergencies  
call the 24-hour environmental hotline:

1-800-222-6514

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