

What Can We Do To Protect Our Lake?

There are so many simple measures that each of us can do to protect Lake Chemung. Keeping our lake healthy and devoid of contaminants is a good way to start! With spring just around the corner, it's not too soon to start thinking about what we can do. Here are a few ways that each of us can help to ensure that our lake will continue to thrive.

Dumping - Never dump any toxic liquids into the lake. If it is not fresh water you are dumping, it does not belong in the lake!

Littering - Keep waste products out of the water! Plastic bags, cans, bottles and any kind of wrappers need to be disposed of properly and not thrown in the lake. Everyone can do his or her part! Pick up any debris that has floated onto your shore and pick up any trash items that you see floating in the water.

Burning – Burn Pits should be located away from the water's edge. Design your pit so that airborne ash does not blow and rainwater does not carry ash directly into the lake. Ash is extremely high in nutrients (phosphorus) – excess nutrients in the lake causes heavy weed growth! Don't burn in roadways where ash can enter drains and storm sewers discharging into the lake.

Fertilizers - Of all of the actions we take to protect our lake, controlling the use of fertilizer may be the most important!! Most lawn fertilizers contain phosphorus, nitrates and other chemicals that can wash into the lake and increase weed growth. There are many products that you can use for your lawn care that are organic and/or contain very low levels of phosphorus. These products are safe for lakes and wildlife and work as well, if not better, than products that can be bought at local chain stores. Some of Livingston County's local nurseries, such as Meier Flowerland, Bordines and Leppek Nursery, carry these products. The use of more is not better-use only the minimum recommended application.

Fuel and Oil Spills - When adding fuel and/or oil to your boat engine, use a funnel to keep the liquids from spilling over into the lake and wipe up any excess that has leaked out onto your watercraft.

Create a Buffer Between Your Home and the Water's Edge – Don't mow to the water's edge. Instead, create a natural buffer area near the shoreline to act as a filter to trap excess sediment before it washes into the lake. A natural buffer also discourages geese from frequenting your yard. Keep lawns moist (not overly watered) and vegetated to minimize hard, barren soil areas that could erode.