



make a clear difference for Flathead Lake

Lake-friendly Recreation

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

The beautiful clean waters of Montana's lakes and rivers and the fish and wildlife they support are the focal point of recreation for thousands of residents and visitors each year. All this activity can put pressure on our lakes and rivers. We all know that we must minimize our impact to keep our waters clean and healthy. Here are ways to reduce your recreational impact on Flathead Lake and other waterbodies.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

BOATING

- **Fueling** – Prevent fuel splashing by always using an oil absorbent fuel donut or fuel bib around the deck to catch spills and overflow. Be sure to properly dispose of fuel-soaked absorbents as hazardous waste. Don't top off the tank and don't rely on automatic shut-off while refueling, listen to your tank.
- **Cleaning** – Keep cleaning products out of the water and choose non-toxic, phosphate-free, biodegradable cleaning products.
- **Adjust your speed** – Reduce your wake and consequent wave action that can damage the shoreline. Observe all regulations, including "no-wake" and low speed zones. Watercraft in our area are restricted to "no-wake" zones from the shoreline to 200 ft from shore. Check for other boating regulations at Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.
- **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY** your boat to prevent moving aquatic invasive species!

LAKE ACCESS

Please check your local county lakeshore regulations before making any changes to your shoreline.

- **Docks** – Construct the smallest possible dock to meet your needs and allow free flow of water beneath it to prevent erosion and sedimentation along the shore. Use naturally resistant wood (cedar, tamarack, redwood), metal, or plastic instead of treated wood. Chemicals used to treat the wood may cause water quality problems.
- **Paths** – Create defined paths that meander down to the water using impervious materials, like mulch or pebbles. Straight paths to the lake become a channel for the water, bringing with it pollution and sediments.
- **Placement** – Select areas that will minimize erosion and damage to the lake shore. Place docks and paths on areas of low slope and avoid apparent groundwater seepage spots and depressions.



CAMPING

- **Washing** – Never wash in the lake or river. Wash dishes, hair, clothes, and yourself at least 150 ft from the water's edge. Always use biodegradable soap.
- **Waste disposal** – Never dispose fish guts or other waste in or near the water. Use a designated garbage receptacle or pack it out. Even if it is "biodegradable", it attracts pests and can add nutrients to the water.
- **Human waste** – Use the latrine whenever one is provided. If none are available, bury human waste a minimum of 150 ft from water's edge. Bacteria and viruses in human waste can transmit disease.
- **Leave no trace!** Properly dispose of all garbage, including litter you find.



HOW TO LEARN MORE

The Flathead Lakers offer opportunities to learn more:

-*Clean Water Practices Site Visits:* We will explore clean water practices that might work for you.

-*Walk and Talk Tours:* Watch for our small group tours to see lake-friendly lawns and other clean water practices in use.

-*Additional clean water practices fact sheets* and informational brochures are available on our website, visit www.flatheadlakers.org.



Together, we can keep Flathead Lake blue!

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