

FRIENDS OF NORTHERN LAKE CHAMPLAIN

PO Box 58
Swanton, VT 05488

www.northernlakechamplain.org/index.html



RESIDENTIAL PRACTICES for CLEANER WATERS

THREE WAYS OF REDUCING PHOSPHORUS--- IN THE RIVERS, BAYS AND LAKES

1. What's in your septic system?

Septic tanks should be pumped every 3-5 years. If a septic system is leaking it is probably contributing phosphorus to the watershed, especially if the system is close to the Lake, a pond or a stream.

If any part of a septic system is closer than 50' to the Lake, pond or stream, or less than 2' above Lake level, it could be polluting the Lake.

Modern septic systems have been developed that are much more efficient and effective than previous designs. And they can now be placed on smaller lots. Contact a local installer, or contact us for suggestions.

2. On the Lawn:

Have a buffer between the lawn and the Lake, pond or stream.

A natural barrier of trees and shrubs along the bank helps keep excess phosphorus from reaching the water.

Use phosphorus-free fertilizer, and no fertilizer near the water.

3. Running water:

Too much water leads to erosion downstream-- let water soak into the ground, rather than running down the driveway, or racing into the ditch.

Direct water from gutters away from the driveway.

Wash the car on the lawn, and use phosphorus-free detergent.

Direct water from roofs, gutters and driveways into a rain garden. Find information about rain gardens elsewhere on our website. **Or contact us for more information, using the Contact Us page on our website.**

What is this all about? Phosphorus

Too much phosphorus in the water feeds algae blooms and weed growth.

Phosphorus is also found in manure, fertilizers, and human and animal wastes.

To Clean up our Lake, citizens need to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the watershed, and reduce the transport of phosphorus into the waters.