



# WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## What else can boaters do to keep water clean?

### Keep fuel and oil out of water:

- Always refuel away from water if possible.
- Avoid topping off fuel - stop when "near full".
- Have several cloths ready to catch spills should they happen.

### Boats with outboard motors:

- If you need to refill engine-mounted tanks afloat, use a properly-sized funnel and a fuel container sized to fit your tank.
- For portable tanks, simply use a second tank for reserve fuel (versus refilling on water)
- Check bilge area for any oil or fuel before you pull the drain plug. Remove oil with "bilge pillows" or drain into container away from water.

### Boats with build-in fuel tanks:

- Install fuel/air separator in air vent line from tank to prevent vent spills during & after fill up.
- Routinely check for and fix fuel leaks. Use a drip pan under engine and bilge pillows.



### Other suggestions:

- If installing a dock on your property, aim for a low impact version - a floating, pipe or cantilever dock will cause much less disturbance to the lakebed.
- When boating close to shore, drive at "no-wake" speed (10 km/h within 30 metres of shore) to protect vegetation and prevent erosion - it is the law in Alberta.

## Practice good boat cleaning and maintenance methods:

- To reduce the impact of boat cleaning, use a "Wax n' Wash" routine. Before launching your boat, give it a thorough cleaning where run-off won't enter the lake, then apply a good coat of boat wax and polish. During the boating season simply slosh with water and clean with a mop.
- Don't use soap in the lake, even if its marked "biodegradable" - this simply means it can break down with the help of "soil" bacteria.
- Phosphate-free cleaners are a must or better yet find other "green" alternatives to commercial cleaners such as baking soda, lemon juice and vinegar along with a little elbow grease.

Help other boaters keep our water clean and pass this guide along.  
Visit [www.wwmc](http://www.wwmc) for other ideas & links.

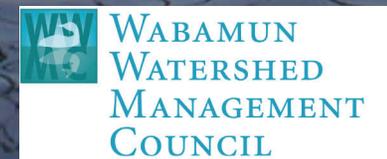
- Clean boat bottoms and do all hull scraping, sanding and chemical stripping ashore over a drop cloth.
- Perform any bilge cleaning with minimal detergents or emulsifiers and away from the water. Try to contain the "gunk" with cloths, rags, etc. and dispose in the proper facilities along with any used bilge pillows. Do not pump bilge contents directly into the water.



## How to improve water quality at Lake Wabamun:



## Responsible Boating & Boat Care





## What is the "big" issue?

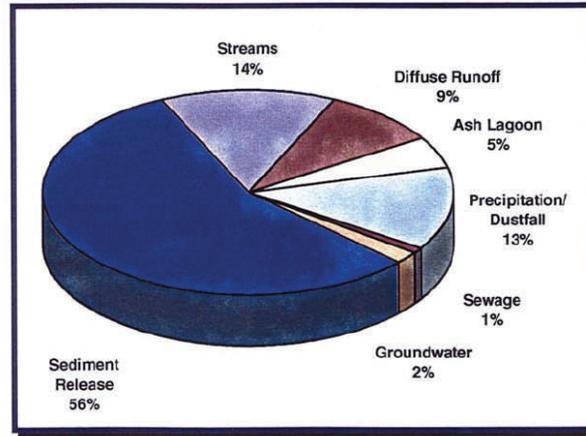
- Nutrients are the "building blocks" of life, however, when we allow too many nutrients to enter a lake undesired amounts of aquatic vegetation and algae will occur.
- Shallow, nutrient-rich lakes can either be in a clear-water state, dominated by aquatic plants (like Lake Wabamun) or a turbid water state, dominated by algae.
- Switching between states can occur due to increased nutrient loading or other stresses like large removals of aquatic vegetation.



## What is the "state" of nutrients in Lake Wabamun?

- Currently, Wabamun is considered a slightly "Eutrophic" lake, meaning it is relatively high in nutrients and productivity.
- Sediment records indicate faster deposition rates for phosphorus in recent times, with a slight decrease since inputs of water from the Water Treatment Plant started in 1998.
- The release of phosphorus built up in lake sediments (called internal loading) now accounts for as much as 56% of total phosphorus releases annually.
- To prevent a possible change in stable state, further inputs of nutrients must be reduced.

## What are the sources of nutrients in the lake?



### Based on total phosphorus loading data for Wabamun Lake (1980 and 1981):

- 56% of phosphorus releases per year originate from nutrients already deposited in sediment. This could be reduced over time if external nutrient inputs decrease.
- The remaining 44% of annual phosphorus releases come from sources outside the lake, i.e. external loading.

## How can boaters reduce external nutrient loading?

### Keep boating waters free of litter and fish waste:

- Remove unnecessary packages and wrappings at home & bring back what you take out.
- If trash accidentally falls overboard, retrieve when it is safe to do so.
- Empty all trash bags onshore in garbage cans or take home.
- Clean fish at onshore cleaning stations or at home - do not dispose of fish waste in water.

## Control boat sewage and use pump-outs:

- Use onshore restrooms and shoreside facilities when docked. Urge everyone to use the bathroom before leaving shore.
- Take dogs to posted pet walk areas and use a "pooper scooper".
- Find ways to eliminate producing grey water, collect what you do produce and dispose of it properly on shore.
- Make sure that any of the soaps or detergents you do use are phosphate-free.
- **It is illegal** to discharge raw sewage from a vessel into Canadian waters. All boats fitted with a marine toilet should also be fitted with a holding tank and you must dispose of its contents via an approved wastewater treatment facility, e.g. a pump-out system at one of the yacht clubs.
- Systems with "Y-valves", which allow toilet waste to go overboard, should be locked in a position that allows raw sewage to enter the holding tank only.
- Portable toilets should be securely fastened to the boat and have a permanent fixture enabling them to be emptied at a pump-out station.
- While toilet odours are often dealt with using deodorizers or chemicals, the best method is regular pump outs.

## Contact Us

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