
Be Water-Wise While Enjoying Lakes and Rivers This Season

Summer is a time for getting out on the water and enjoying recreational activities like boating, swimming, or fishing. Along with these fun activities comes the responsibility for maintaining our waterways. Here are some tips on keeping your lake in good condition:

Don't Litter!

This one may seem obvious to most, but it's surprising how easy it is to litter when you're out on the water and there's no place to put your trash. Always bring a trash bag for garbage. Never allow broken fishing line in the water. This



Jeff Strobel photo

Waterways that are clean are more enjoyable for everyone.

is a lethal form of trash that can choke fish and certain plants. If you're an angler, don't release bait into the waters.

Keep Your Boat in Good Condition

Just as cars with leaking engines can pollute, so can boats. Make sure your boat is in top running condition and fix all leaks before the boating season, if possible. Repair and paint any peeling surfaces that might get into the water. Inspect your hull, motor, electronic transducer and anchor for zebra mussel infestation. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommends that boaters remove all plants and animals, remove water in the bilge live well and empty bait buckets. If you find any, keep your boat out of the water for a minimum of five sunny days to kill the attached mussels. Or, you can spray down the boat with hot water or a high-pressure nozzle to kill them. The engine's cooling system should also be flushed with hot water. Usually boats that are moored for a period of time are at risk for zebra mussel infestation. Report any signs of zebra mussels to DNR, Ron Martin, 608/266-9270. You might also want to report their presence to your local lake association.

And finally, be sure to empty your wastes from your boat at a marina.