

# Open the Door to Clean Lakes!

[www.epa.gov/owow/lakes](http://www.epa.gov/owow/lakes)

- Organize lakeshore cleanups to collect trash and litter washed up to shore.
- Recycle used oil at appropriate facilities.
- Clean off recreational equipment after use to stop aquatic hitchhikers.
- Use pump-out stations for boat waste.
- Let natural vegetation grow by the lake—mow and fertilize less!
- Join your local lake organization, or start one on your own (Visit [www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt)).
- Become a volunteer lake monitor (visit <http://dipin.kent.edu>).
- Enjoy your lake!



# Did You Know?

The lake is more than what the eye can see. It's part of a watershed, an area of land that drains rain and snow to a stream, lake, wetland, estuary, or the ocean.

## These pollutants can harm your lake:

- Excess fertilizer and pesticides that run off lawns and gardens
- Aquatic hitchhikers such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil
- Litter dumped into lakes or via storm sewers
- Direct discharge of municipal or industrial waste
- Soil from eroding shorelines
- Oil and salt from road runoff
- Wetland drainage and filling
- Leaking septic systems
- Runoff from cropland or feedlots

## Clean Lakes and You



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