



# things **YOU** can do to protect our watershed

**01** 

## Maintain your septic system.

Keep it functioning properly by inspecting it every 1 to 3 years, and pumping your tank every 3 to 5 years. Septic systems have a lifespan of 25-35 years. Know your septic system and plan to replace it.

**02** 

## Conserve water.

Use water saving appliances such as low-flow faucets, shower heads, and reduced-flow toilets. Repair leaking faucets, toilets, and pumps. Water gardens in the morning or evening only, and do not overwater. Use slow-watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses.

**03** 

## Enhance your shoreline with native plants.

Reduce turf grass. Native plant root systems filter out pollutants, stabilize soil, and clean storm water runoff before it enters our lake. They also require much less maintenance.

**04** 

## Read labels; use sparingly.

Use fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, salts, and sands wisely, especially near water. Read directions, and sweep up any excess. Overuse can lead to algal blooms, murky water, and eventually altered food webs.

**05** 

## Give water more places to go.

Redirect storm water to areas where it can slowly seep into the groundwater: Plant a rain garden, connect your downspouts to rain barrels, choose porous pavement instead of impervious materials, like concrete or asphalt.

**06** 

## Scoop your dog's poop.

How many dogs live in the Flathead Watershed? It adds up.

**07** 

## Maintain your car.

Regular maintenance will reduce the amount of oil and other fluid leaks and spills. Wash your car at a commercial car wash.

**08** 

## Properly dispose of hazardous household chemicals.

Check your local county transfer station for collection days.

**09** 

## Clean, drain, and dry your boat.

Aquatic invasive species, like zebra/quagga mussels, threaten our watershed, as well as our economy and community. Do your part: clean, drain, and dry your boat whenever you move it, and tell your visitors to do the same. Stop at all inspection stations. Spread the message, not the mussel.

**10**

## Become a member of the Flathead Lakers.

We provide many different learning opportunities for our members and community. Join and support our work to protect clean water, healthy ecosystems, and a lasting quality of life in the Flathead Watershed.



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LAKERS**  
DEFENDERS OF THE WATERSHED