



## Shoreland Stewardship Scorecard

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### Shoreland Best Management Practices

*Number 17 of 18 in the Series*

## What Are Shoreland BMPs?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are actions you can take to reduce your impact on the environment. BMPs have been described for agriculture, forest management, and construction. This fact sheet describes BMPs you can adopt on your shoreland property to help protect and preserve water quality. In many cases, the best management for shorelands may be retaining the natural characteristics of your property.

**This fact sheet summarizes BMPs from the entire series. Check off practices as YOU adopt them and measure your success as a shoreland steward.**

## Practices to Adopt

### Maintaining Your Septic System/Conserving Water

- Repair leaking pipes and dripping faucets
- Install low-flow showerheads/low-flush toilets
- Eliminate use of garbage disposal

- Adjust speed to reduce wake and minimize wave damage to shore
- Consider existing natural characteristics of property before designing shoreland development
- Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Developing Shoreland Landscapes/Construction**

- Develop a site plan before beginning construction or landscaping
- Develop a site plan to improve the landscape
- Re-establish or preserve a filter strip along the shore
- Minimize disturbance of plants and trees during construction
- Plant native trees and shrubs
- Carefully plan new roads and accesses
- Install "water bars" to slow runoff along roads and paths
- Protect trees during construction
- Plan construction in stages to minimize runoff and erosion of uncovered soil
- Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Stabilizing Shoreline to Prevent Erosion**

- Retain moisture-absorbing vegetation along bluffs
- Move heavy loads back away from bluffs
- Retain ice ridges along the shore
- Install erosion control structure; improve shoreline protection
- Divert water away from top of bluff
- Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Minimizing Runoff from Shoreland Property**

- Reduce paved or covered areas
- Use gravel instead of paving driveways
- Limit clearing and grading on slopes
- Locate new driveways, walks, and footpaths away from slopes

- Close all temporary roads to prevent unwanted use
- Locate landings outside filter strips and away from low, poorly drained areas
- Time harvest appropriately
- Properly dispose of slash away from wetland areas
- Do not conduct mechanical site preparation during periods of saturated soil conditions
- Deposit residue from mechanical site preparation in upland areas
- Create slash piles that do not interfere with natural drainage
- Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Valuing Your Shoreland Trees**

- Plan development of property to save existing vegetation
- Use filter strips adjacent to shoreline to minimize runoff to water
- Contact local zoning office for filter strip requirements before developing new area
- Contact local zoning office for information on thinning trees in shoreland area
- Protect existing trees during site development
- Check for and treat pests and diseases on trees and shrubs
- Water trees during times of low rainfall or after planting
- Use a variety of native species in new plantings
- Rake leaves and vegetative debris away from the water
- Use lake water to water trees, shrubs, and lawn
- Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Preserving Wetlands**

- Preserve existing drainageways during land alterations
- Avoid filling or draining any wetlands during land alteration
- Avoid diverting storm water to any wetland
- Do not use wetland as a dumping ground

- \_\_\_\_\_ Always empty bait buckets on land, never in the water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Never dip bait buckets into a lake when they contain water from another lake
- \_\_\_\_\_ Never dump live fish from one water body into another
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wash boat, tackle, downriggers, and trailer with hot water between uses on different water bodies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flush hot water through motor's cooling system and other boat parts that come in contact with lake water between uses
- \_\_\_\_\_ Let boat and equipment dry for five days before transporting boat to another body of water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Accessing Water Quality Information

- \_\_\_\_\_ Call a state agency's regional office for technical assistance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact a local agency to get questions answered or to apply for a permit

### How good a shoreland steward are YOU?

<u>If you checked off</u>	<u>You're...</u>
More than 80 BMPs	Awesome
60-80 BMPs	Doing a great job
40-59 BMPs	Well on your way
25-39 BMPs	Starting off right
11-24 BMPs	Behind the times
1-10 BMPs	Get Started Today!

## Part of a series. . .

This fact sheet is one of a series designed to assist shoreland property owners in protecting and preserving water quality. The series includes:

1. Understanding Shoreland BMPs
2. Maintaining Your Shoreland Septic System
3. Installing a Shoreland Septic System
4. Ensuring a Safe Water Supply
5. Limiting Impact of Recreation on Water Quality
6. Developing Shoreland Landscapes and Construction Activities
7. Stabilizing Your Shoreline to Prevent Erosion
8. Minimizing Runoff from Shoreland Property
9. Caring for Shoreland Lawns and Gardens