



## I want to protect my shoreline property...

These are the new actions I'll adopt and the things I'm already doing to protect my shoreline, and still save time and money, and safeguard the value of my investment.

### Shoreline

- Start a buffer strip by leaving some grass uncut near the water's edge. If you've got the space, a buffer strip of native plants along the shoreline 30m wide is your best insurance policy. The wider the strip, the greater the benefits!
- Protect a strip of native plants along my shoreline.
- Replant native shrubs and trees along my shoreline.
- Check regularly for invasive plants and remove them carefully.
- Let imported beach sand erode naturally and let native plants grow back.
- Let natural debris (eg. driftwood, fallen trees) accumulate as much as possible.
- Build a low impact dock (check local regulations).
- Keep pets and / or livestock away from my shoreline or streamside.

### Yard

- Minimize the amount of trees and plants cleared during construction projects.
- Prune trees to obtain a better view, instead of removing them.
- Reduce my use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Handle fuels, oil, and other chemicals with great care, and be prepared for spills.
- Redirect driveway runoff into a settling / soaking area.

### House

- Use phosphate free soaps and cleaners.
- Use alternative cleaners like baking soda and vinegar instead of toxic products.

## House cont.

- Pump my septic tank regularly (for a field system, every 2-3 years).
- Avoid overloading my septic system by staggering full laundry loads through the week.
- Conserve water by using low-flow showerheads and toilets.
- Give my visitors a Green Guest Guide (download from [www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca))

## Boating

- Use oil absorbing bilge cloths, instead of bilge cleaners.
- Practice safe refueling.
- Reduce my wake by slowing down to 5km/hr within 160m (500 ft) from shore
- Purchase or use a 2 or 4 stroke motor that meets EPA 2006 guidelines.
- Maintain my boat motor and have it inspected regularly.

**Visit [livingbywater.ca](http://livingbywater.ca) for more information about the tips described in this checklist.**

The Living by Water Project works toward healthier human and wildlife habitat along the shorelines of Canada. Nature Canada is the national coordinator for the program. For more information visit the Living By Water Web site at [livingbywater.ca](http://livingbywater.ca).