



A Quick Guide for Moses Lake Shoreline Landowners & Residents

As a shoreline landowner or resident on Moses Lake, you can make a big difference when it comes to the lake's water quality and our community's health and wellbeing. Here are three key ways you can help.

1

Lawn & Garden Care

Fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides can enhance yards and gardens. But if you use too much of these products or apply them at the wrong time, they can end up in the lake.

What to do:

- Use phosphorus free fertilizer.
- Read and follow product labels for safe use and disposal.
- Use fertilizer sparingly. Test your soil to find the right dose and type to match your plants' needs.
- Don't treat your lawn or garden before a rainstorm.
- Use slow-release fertilizers and other more environmentally friendly products.
- Try alternative methods like composting, companion planting, mulching, and hand weeding.

2

Septic Maintenance

There are a surprising number of septic systems on Moses Lake. If your septic system isn't properly maintained, untreated sewage can go directly into the lake.

What to do:

- Know the location of your tank(s) and drainfield.
- Get your system inspected regularly (once every 1-3 years).
- Know what is safe to flush or pour down your drain.
- Keep trees at least 30 feet from the edge of your drainfield to stop roots from damaging your system.
- Never drive over your system.
- Got odors, wet spots, or leaking sewage? Get a professional out right away.
- Conserve water. Too much water can cause solids to escape your tank and plug your drainfield.
- Repair or replace your system if it fails or is otherwise inadequate.
- Consider connecting to the city's system if possible.
- Find out about financial assistance for septic repairs or replacement.

For assistance contact:

Grant County Health District at (509) 766-7960 or visit:
<http://granthealth.org/on-site-septic-systems-operation-and-maintenance/>



3

Property Improvements & Changes to the Shoreline

Shoreline vegetation and stabilization play important roles in helping keep our lake clean and healthy. Therefore changes in or near the shoreline may require a permit, including for new docks and boat lifts, repairing a dock, adding rocks, construction, grading, clearing, removing or cutting plants, etc.

What to do:

- Considering making changes within 200 feet of the shoreline or removing the shoreline buffer fence? Save time and money by calling a planner at the City of Moses Lake at (509) 764-3747 to help determine if a permit is required or if your project is eligible for a permit exemption.
- Prevent erosion and stabilize the bank using one of three general approaches: live plantings, bioengineering, or hard armoring (rocks, retaining walls, etc). Note, live plantings are often required when using hard armoring to help reduce impacts to fish and wildlife.
- Enhance the shoreline and contribute to a healthier lake with beneficial vegetation.

For assistance contact:

City of Moses Lake Planning Department at (509) 764-3747



Moses Lake
Watershed Council

Learn more and get involved at
www.MosesLakeWatershed.org
or call (509) 765-9618

