

## Curb Pollutants

Pollutants are any material that might cause harm to a waterbody. While we typically think of pollutants as chemicals used to kill plants, fertilizers used for plant growth are just as devastating.

### Simple Step 1

Avoid using fertilizers that contain phosphorus. Phosphorus is an essential part of plant growth, however, too much promotes rapid growth of algae and weeds. This depletes oxygen and clarity in the water, affecting fish and plant life.



### Simple Step 2

When planning a construction project, ensure that you have an erosion control plan. This plan helps prevent algae-feeding nutrients from washing into nearby waterbodies. Diverting runoff around disturbed areas also helps reduce erosion.

### Simple Step 3

Dispose of any hazardous waste in a responsible manner. DO NOT pour any old oil or pesticides in any ditch or opening adjacent to the lake. There is a link at the bottom of this page to help you manage what to do with excess waste.

### Follow This Link

[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials\\_minerals\\_.pdf/hhwma.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals.pdf/hhwma.pdf)

## Reduce Runoff

Runoff is excess water that comes from surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, decks, and hard soil. Runoff water carries fertilizers and other pollutants into nearby watersheds. You can reduce runoff by letting water soak into the ground.

### Simple Step 4

Plant trees and shrubs or protect intact wooded areas. These areas form what is known as a Duff Layer. This duff protects soil from rain impact and absorbs water. Root systems keep this layer in place, keeping rainwater from going into the lake.

### Did You Know?

Lawns Create More Runoff Because:

Removal of trees and shrubs causes more rain to hit the ground

Heavy equipment and foot traffic compact soils

Excessive grading removes natural divots where water naturally soaks in and forms ponds

### Simple Step 5

Reduce hard surfaces on your property. When looking at additions to your property, first consider whether you could build up instead of out. If you are looking into a new driveway, consider using gravel. It becomes just as compacted with less runoff.

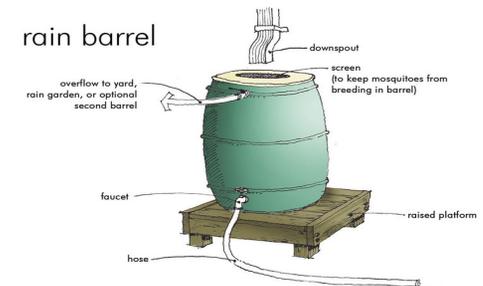


## Capture and Purify

Rain barrels, shoreland buffers, and rain gardens are all effective ways to protect any water body adjacent to your property. This section will provide a brief overview of these methods.

### Simple Step 6

Rain barrels can be any sort of water collection unit that gets water directly from a gutter system on a house. The barrel should be covered to keep out leaves and insects



### How Does it Work?

Building and Using a Rain Garden:

Rain gardens are areas that soak up rain water and consist of native vegetation in place of traditional lawns.

The plants in the garden act as filters for rain, slowing down runoff and preventing it from flowing into drainage ways.

### Simple Step 7

Shoreland buffers should be protected or restored if possible. Replant native trees, grasses, shrubs, and wildflowers. The area where water runs off your property is the best place to plant. Another simple, zero-cost way to improve shoreland is to simply not mow your lawn next to the water.

# Water Quality



Various studies have proven that property values on lakes with clear and clean water are significantly higher than those with biological and chemical pollution. What you and your neighbor do to protect water quality affects all those who live adjacent to waterbodies.

This guide is specifically designed for those who live along waterfronts and describes the three main ways to protect your water and property values.

## Stewardship Practices

There are 3 main ways in which you can help protect the water quality of Saratoga Lake:

### Curb Pollutants

Eliminate pollutants at their source by not using fertilizers, eroding soils, and other outside chemical methods.



### Reduce Runoff

Prevent high amounts of runoff that carry pollutants by minimizing use of hard surfaces.



### Capture and Purify

Use shoreland buffers, rain barrels, or rain gardens to capture cleanse pollutants in runoff



# Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District

## Who We Are

Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District was formed by the NYS legislature in 1986. It is the lead government agency for the protection of Saratoga Lake and the land around it. The commissioners of SLPID are residents within the Saratoga Lake tax district and elected officials serve for three years.



*Thank you to our partner*



**Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**

## Questions?

Contact Cristina Connolly, Commissioner  
at  
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Or visit the mission portion of our website at  
<http://slpid.org/content/Generic/View/30>

# LAKE SIDE LIVING

## A PROPERTY OWNERS GUIDE TO SARATOGA LAKE



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Hours of Operation  
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