

# 10 Ways

## You Can Help Fight Algae Blooms in Our Lakes



environmental  
defence

**Algae** are a natural part of aquatic ecosystems, but too much can kill fish and make the water unsafe to drink or touch. Luckily, there are a few easy ways you can help keep our waterways from turning a nasty, slimy shade of green.

### 1. Avoid using chemical fertilizers

These chemicals have been linked to a wide range of human health hazards, ranging from headaches to cancer. They also pollute both ground and surface water, encouraging out-of-control algae growth.



### 2. Embrace compost

Compost leaves and food waste to make an all-natural fertilizer for your lawn and garden, reducing your reliance on chemical fertilizers.



### 3. Ensure a clean septic system

To prevent accumulated household sludge, septic tanks should be inspected by a licensed professional at least once every two years.

### 4. Pick up after your pet

By doing so, you're not just being a good neighbour. Scooping up pet waste keeps nutrients from running into storm drains and waterways where they can encourage algae growth.



### 5. Take a good look at your outdoor surfaces

Stormwater flows across concrete or asphalt and into storm drains—bringing with it all the dirty stuff it picked up along the way. Stop these pollution streams on your property by using gravel, wood chips, or other porous materials



# 10 WAYS You Can Help Fight Algae Blooms in Our Lakes

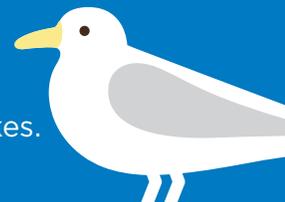
## 6. Use eco-friendly products

Switch to phosphorus-free cleaning products (i.e. dishwashing detergents and personal hygiene products) to avoid adding excess phosphorus to our waterways and lakes whenever possible.



## 7. Don't feed the birds on the beach

Bird waste also contains nutrients like phosphorus which encourage algae growth. Feeding can attract even more birds, resulting in large amounts of bird waste on our beaches and in our lakes.



## 8. Keep your vehicle in good condition

Ensure oil, coolant, antifreeze, and other nasty liquid leaks are fixed. Always wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of hosing down your vehicle on your driveway.

**THE REASON:** The pros are required to drain their wastewater into sewer systems, where the water is treated before being discharged into our lakes.



## 9. Love a natural shoreline

Leave your shoreline natural. Also plant hardy and native plants to reduce erosion, and absorb excess nutrients running off your property.



## 10. Keep storm drains clear

Don't blow yard waste and grass clippings into streets or storm drains, and make sure storm grates and outflows are clear.



## SPREAD THE WORD & BE A WATER ADVOCATE

Sign up for our water e-newsletter  
[environmentaldefence.ca/newsletter](http://environmentaldefence.ca/newsletter)



environmental  
defence

JOIN THE COMMUNITY



@envirodefence



environmentaldefencecanada