

Stop Polluting Lake Champlain

It is a beautiful sunny day and you anticipate the view as soon as you walk on the porch. You are hoping to see big waves and fish in the lake; instead, you see some dead fish floating on the water in a giant cloud of algae bobbing on the surface. Vermont has many precious natural resources, one of which is Lake Champlain and without our help the lake will not survive. It needs our help. We must change our ways and stop polluting Lake Champlain or, we will be unable to use the lake as a source of drinking water, a wildlife habitat, or a place to enjoy for recreation without being sick and killing thousands of fish.

There are many things we can do, big and small, to help stop the pollution of Lake Champlain. Some ways of preserving Lake Champlain are: shopping with water pollution in mind, using mulch and vegetation to absorb extra water, and keeping paved surfaces to a minimum. Shopping with water pollution in mind includes not buying single use plastics and avoiding toxic household chemicals. Many companies offer non-toxic cleaners and some offer eco-friendly packaging. Additionally, keeping paved areas to a minimum means eliminating patios and parking on dirt lots. Another way of helping to avoid runoff, which can cause lake pollution, is by using mulch and vegetation to absorb extra water, keeping runoff out of the lake.

If we do not stop polluting Lake Champlain we will not be able to do recreational

activities, drink the water, and large groups of wildlife will lose their natural habitat. We will not be able to drink water from our precious Lake Champlain if we keep polluting it. It is making the water unsanitary and has harmful bacteria in it. Wildlife will lose their natural habitat because of unclean water and no fish to eat which will slowly work its way through the food chain. Finally, recreational activities like fishing, boating, and swimming will not be feasible because of unclean water that could spread diseases and make people sick.

Some of the many things polluting and damaging Lake Champlain are runoff, sewage leakage, and trash pollution. First of all, runoff is rainwater or snowmelt that drains off of roads and streets, and farms getting to Lake Champlain through rivers and shore lines. Sewage overflows when the treatment facilities are overwhelmed, there is clogged plumbing, sewage backflow, damage to a tank, or flood water. Finally,. throwing thrash into the lake takes some of the oxygen out of the water resulting in poor health for fish, turtles, clams, birds, and humans and eventually it works its way all the way through the food chain because there is not enough oxygen in the water.

We must act now and stop polluting Lake Champlain; or face the consequences of being incapable of using the lake as a source of drinking water, an animal habitat, or a place to enjoy recreation without being ill and killing lots of marine life. Some ways to help this issue is by shopping with water pollution in mind, and think twice before throwing trash in the lake. Also, next time you take a sip of water, think whether you drink trash and harmful bacteria? If not, say no to pollution and spread the word.