

How Much Pollution Can Your Lake Handle?

If you live on or near a natural lake chances are the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has assessed your lake's ability to accept pollution. Pollution comes in many forms, from simple yard waste like grass clippings, to muddy water from new construction sites, to violators dumping unwanted chemicals. The most common pollution is simply nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, which act as catalysts to impairing a waterbody. Elevated nutrients cause algae blooms and over production of aquatic plants, often driving oxygen levels low and impacting fish and aquatic life.

Lakes have the ability to breakdown a small level of pollutants, but too much will overwhelm the natural balance. Take a minute to visit "Basin411" at the FDEP Water Resource Management Division's website and check out your lake. The more you know about your watershed the more you can help make a difference. Lake managers need your help, if nothing more than understanding and support of their management plans. Consider volunteering if you have the extra time, you will find it most rewarding.

Florida has many watersheds so FDEP divided the state into five groups of manageable waterbasins. Click on the site map to find the Assessment Report of your lake or stream.

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/basin411/default.htm>

Choose a Basin Group by selecting from the map or list below.

