



Home and Garden Care to Protect Ken Lake

What are we worried about? The chemicals you put on your lawn, garden, or pavement, and that you use for outside home maintenance.

Why? Ken Lake is a drainage basin and these chemicals will likely end up in our lake. This can cause pollution with unsafe chemicals and harm to swimmers and fish or wildlife. It can also lead to algae blooms which fill in the lake and can deplete oxygen and cause fish to die.

What should I be careful about?

- Phosphates in lawn and garden fertilizers. Please use slow release or organic fertilizers and do not over fertilize. Fertilize only twice a year in May and September.
- Phosphates and other chemicals in soaps used to wash cars in driveway drain directly into the lake. Park on the lawn to wash car or go to a car wash that drains into the sewers.
- Any substance besides water going down stormdrains, all of which drain into the lake.
- Chemicals used to prevent or remove moss from your roof. Many are toxic to plants and animals. Detergents are high in phosphates that are very bad for the lake. Try using baking soda sprinkled over the roof ridge in fall and mid winter. Buy in bulk at Costco. It is very effective.
- The amount of impervious pavement in your yard. Maximize water filtration into the soil by minimizing pavement in driveways, walkways, and patios.
- Any pollutants within 50 feet of the lake, whether on house, projects, or landscape.
- Dog feces. Its bacteria are very polluting and it should be removed from the yard and put into the trash.

How can my landscaping protect the lake?

Plant more native plants. They require less fertilizing, fewer pesticides, and less watering.
Cut grass high and leave clippings to reduce need for water and fertilizer.
Have less lawn, which is usually water and fertilizer intensive.
Do not use Weed and Feed as it is an inefficient and polluting way to meet your lawn's needs.
Minimize exposed soil and runoff with ground covers and mulches. Free mulch is available at the Thurston County Waste Transfer Station
Houses on the water are subject to the Shoreline Management Act and are required to leave a natural vegetation buffer and to keep structures away from the water.

Some Resources:
https://www.ecology.wa.gov/ecologys-work-near-you/earth-day/washington-waters-ours-to-protect
https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/sustainability-tips/landscaping-and-natural-yard-care/for-residents/lawn-care
Natural Lawn Care Hotline: 206-633-0224 or help@gardenhotline.org