



Greetings, and *congratulations on your new home!* If you just moved to Vermont, or are a resident who changed locations, we hope you are enjoying your new home and your local landscape.

We are the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Institute at the University of Vermont and SUNY Plattsburgh. We work closely with communities to develop and share science-based knowledge that benefits the environment and economies of the Lake Champlain basin.

Some of the features that make Vermont special are its lakes, streams, ponds, and wetlands. Maybe you enjoy boating, swimming, fishing, walking along the shores of your favorite lake or watching a sunset across the water. Maybe your drinking water originates in Lake Champlain. Regardless of what Vermont waters mean to you, you can play an important role in protecting them.

Stormwater, in the form of rain or melted snow or ice, flows as runoff into waterways from our properties, developed lands, agricultural fields, roads, and forests. This runoff transports sediment and other pollutants including nutrients that can negatively impact water quality, public health, and the economy.

You can visit our website to learn ways to protect and improve water quality near your home by minimizing stormwater runoff. You will find links to educational information, videos, and resources such as local and state organizations that can help you manage your home and property in environmentally friendly ways.

Visit our website at [uvm.edu/seagrant/homeowner-resources](http://uvm.edu/seagrant/homeowner-resources) to learn about:

- **Lawn care best practices to protect the environment**
- **Using nature's strategies to clean and minimize stormwater runoff: rain barrels, rain gardens, and more**
- **Septic system maintenance**
- **Managing your property in the Current Use Program (a tax reduction program for forests or farmland)**
- **Low-salt ways to keep surfaces free from ice and snow**
- **Boating practices that protect water quality**
- **How to protect yourselves and your pets from risks associated with cyanobacteria blooms (AKA Harmful Algal Blooms)**
- **And much more!**

Thank you for taking the time to read about Lake Champlain Sea Grant and our resources. Feel free to contact me for additional information. Together we can keep our waters clean!

With best wishes,  
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A joint program of:  
• University of Vermont  
• SUNY Plattsburgh  
• National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
(NOAA), Department of  
Commerce