



A Green Guide to
Cottage
Care



Watersheds
C A N A D A





SUSTAINABILITY AT THE COTTAGE

Cottage maintenance is a year-round effort. Whether you are at the cottage seasonally or year-round, it is important to take the right steps in caring for your cottage. With this in mind, you can also make those steps as freshwater friendly as possible.

Sustainable practices can help you save money and take part in environmental protection while enjoying your time at your waterfront property.





CARING FOR YOUR COTTAGE



Protect your shoreline.

Avoid soil erosion, decreased water quality and clarity, and habitat loss by planting native trees and shrubs.



Protect your pipes.

Choose environmentally friendly products wherever possible.

Never pour chemicals or prescriptions down the drain or toilet.



Protect your home.

Take preventative action to keep your cottage cared for.

Check on your cottage seasonally for water damage or unwanted animals.

Choose to use environmentally friendly or natural cleaners instead of harsh chemicals.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Inspect your property regularly and be on the lookout for potential property damage
- Clean the deck and porch with environmentally friendly cleaners
- Leave leaf litter and fallen trees whenever possible
- Properly dispose of your garden waste to prevent spreading invasive species
- Only burn local firewood
- Use sulphate-free cleaning products
- Practice producing less waste
- Clear out the fridge and pantry during the off season
- Compost whenever possible
- Plant native trees and shrubs to protect your shoreline



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Inspect your septic system regularly
- Install water saving devices (ex: shower head)
- Install a microfibre filter on your washing machine
- Minimize outdoor lighting to decrease light pollution
- Learn to identify and report invasive species where necessary
- Reduce stormwater runoff by using a rain barrel
- Leave fallen logs and woody debris for wildlife habitat
- Let grass grow to allow deep roots to establish
- Put garbage in a lidded container and store indoors
- Maintain your trees and bushes by picking ripe fruits and berries

Document photos: Canva