

Lead Shot, Lead Sinkers and Golf Balls are all NO-NOs for our lake

Did you know that lead sinkers, jigs and pellets account for 10 – 50% of recorded adult loon mortality. Just one ingested sinker or pellet can kill a loon. Lead ingestion also occurs in a wide variety of other waterfowl plus shorebirds, raptors and scavengers.

And according to an article in Cottage Life magazine, golf balls are also a risk. They release heavy metals such as zinc and can take up to 1000 years to decompose.

Please don't use lead products. Don't shoot lead pellets especially over the lake. Go through your tackle boxes and remove hazardous lead sinkers and lead-based jigs. Purchase lead free products instead.

Please don't shoot your golf balls into the lake. Buy floater balls as an alternative. Collect any golf balls you see in the water. And, let us know if there are areas in the lake that need a clean-up.

What products are safe to put in the lake?

Our lake is home to plants, animals and their babies. And it is a place where our children play.

If the product is safe enough to put in your coffee cup or in your child's cup, then it is safe for the lake.

If you wouldn't want to eat it or drink given concerns for your health, there is a good chance it shouldn't go into the lake. This includes: DEET (bug spray); fireworks (contain perchlorate); and soaps and shampoos (contain phosphates). Even urine can promote algal blooms and can contain pharmaceuticals. All products containing heavy metals and lead including sinkers, pellets, jigs should not be released into the lake.

And all treated wood or wood preservatives should not be used for docks or used near the lake. Next time your lumber yard recommends any treated wood for your dock, please take the time to educate them. The chemicals pose serious ill effects on wildlife.

Mary Kainer, Environment Chair
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