



## LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT

July, 2019

**LAKE** Note: Special pile pick-up will be on Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> before the holiday

We started the Spring with a unique Algae bloom. Why? The theory is - we had a long winter that had good ice and snow cover. This block's out the sunlight reaching the aquatic plants and instead of just going dormant, they actually can die off. In early March we had 3 days of fast snow melt followed by some rain events. With a rush of surface water draining into the lake come's a huge supply of nutrients (Dead leaves are a big source of phosphorus). These nutrients would typically be consumed by the aquatic plants that are dormant and we would have had a spring with quick growing aquatic plants. However, since they were dead, the algae consumed the nutrients and "kaboom" a massive algae bloom under the ice! It looked like someone dyed the lake green for St. Patricks day. After ice out, the lake remained bright green and it faded to a darker green as some of the algae coagulated and died off, some floating in small clumps and some dropping to the bottom. The dying algae also minimizes oxygen levels which make fish lethargic and perhaps can explain a sort of slow fishing season so far.

While the appearance of the lake was disappointing to folks (everyone likes when it's clear and you can see the lake bottom) the truth is the algae bloom can be good for a lake like Pewaukee. Why? Well the zooplankton and all the microorganisms feed on the algae. Minnows and year of the young fish, feed on the zooplankton. The bigger fish feed on the smaller fish. In essence the algae bloom is the start of the whole food chain and is good for a lake as long as it is just a phase and doesn't stay all year or turn into the bad bluegreen algae. To date the lake is clearing up and the little critters and fish are happy. The aquatic vegetation is now starting to flourish and our crews are on top of it. They are giving the invasive aquatic plants a good "haircut" so we are keeping the vegetation at bay. It appears we can anticipate a really great summer on Pewaukee Lake!

Once the shorelines are maintained and are looking good, we will be getting an early start on any areas that appear to be showing signs of reaching the surface. Pass the word so we don't have 20 phone calls questioning why we are out in the middle of the lake and not on your shoreline. Again it is because the shoreline is cut already and we are attacking a potential heavy growth area before it can reach the surface and becomes a problem or unsightly. This helps minimize the prop chop that creates all the floaters. While we are putting the crews in full force, we can't emphasize enough how much more efficient we can remove the weeds if the lake property owners participate in the pile pick-ups on Mondays and Fridays. The Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District started this process several years ago and to date, other Lake Districts have been following our lead. This "pile pick up" is on Mondays and Fridays weather permitting. We send crews out to pick up piles of weeds that the lake homeowner's have stacked up on the shoreline. While this does take effort from you, this effort goes farther than you think. Aquatic plants you pile up help us remove even more Eurasian milfoil fragments from the lake and prohibit their reestablishment. If your Aquatic plants are piled we can move around the lake quicker, pick up more weeds faster and it allows us to clean more shoreline and harvest more milfoil.

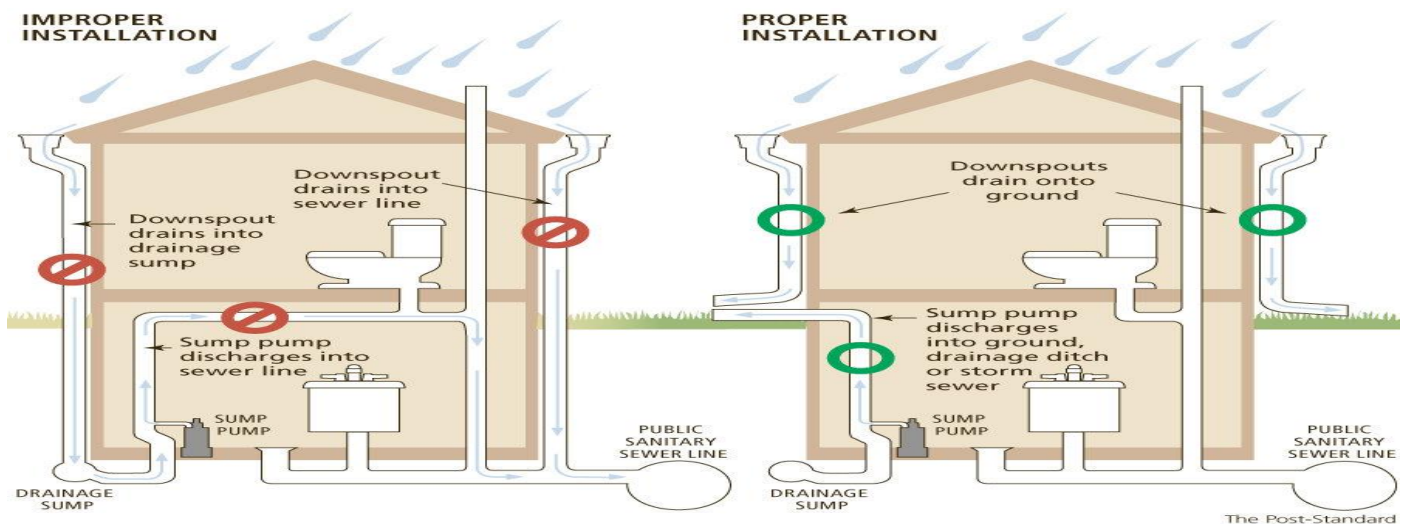
If you cannot possibly do this, there are high school and college kids willing to do it for you and it isn't expensive. It's no different than hiring a lawn service because you want a better lawn. Call our office for more information, as we like to work with these services and are even willing to pick up the piles they make. Our position is the more invasive Eurasian water milfoil we can remove from the lake the better off we all are.

**SEWER NEWS** - SPRING CLEANING is underway and what's the most important thing to remember? **Sewer Pumps do not like cleaning rags and all of us "users" don't like to pay higher user fees.** So....if it's not something going through your body or toilet paper, don't flush it down the toilet.

At least once a year the District has the sewer system wet wells vacuumed and cleaned free of debris to assure the pumps don't get clogged. This comes out of the sewer user fee's we all pay on a quarterly basis. This fee also has to cover any overtime expenses dealing with clogged pumps, so it's pretty simple, don't flush the rags and we don't have to unclog pumps and we don't have to raise the user fees accordingly.



What else makes our user fee's go up? **Illegal sump pump connections.** Pewaukee Lake is a drainage basin lake. This means most of the homes (in fact almost all) the homes eventually drain to the lake. This can be by ditch and storm sewer but it also can be through the ground. Many houses around the lake and even 500 feet to 1000 feet from the lake have natural springs flowing to their basement walls. This water is directed to your drain tile which flows to the sump crock. The sump crock then should discharge outside on the ground or a pipe toward the lake. **IT SHOULD NOT BE CONNECTED TO THE SEWER PIPE.** See improper connection on left below. If it is connected to the sewer pipe (same pipe your kitchen sink and toilet go to) you have an illegal sump pump connection. What you are doing is sending the grey water from your sump pump through the sanitary sewer system to the Brookfield waste water treatment facility. This means everyone in the District is paying to have your waste water treated water that doesn't need to be treated. The proper connection is shown on the right below. If you think you have an issue contact the District and we will inspect your home at no cost.



If you have an issue, call us at 262-691-4485, we will help you get it fixed. No fines, no trouble. Let's just help each other so we can keep the sewer system tight and the user fees cheaper.