

Firehose Diverter

Using a firehose diverter to direct runoff water off of driveways and into areas where it can soak into the ground can reduce soil erosion on your property and help keep the lake clean and healthy!

NH LAKES works with property owners throughout the state to evaluate sites and provide lake-friendly advice that helps beautify properties while fixing problems that pollute our lakes.



What is a Firehose Diverter?

Purpose: The goal is to divert water off of driveways as quickly as possible and into vegetation or other infiltration area where it can soak into the ground. This prevents runoff water from gaining speed as it travels along and then off the driveway, eroding soil and picking up pollutants which may eventually get washed into the lake. Sediment and polluted runoff water coming off of driveways is bad for lakes because it contributes excess nutrients to the lake. This could lead to algae blooms and mucky bottoms.

Firehose diverters work great for driveways that are plowed in the winter. You simply drag the hoses off your driveway in the fall, and put them back in place in the spring.

Materials: Firehose diverters are constructed using old firehoses. Fill the firehose with play sand from any local hardware store, and secure the ends of the hose with duct tape. Make sure sand isn't leaking out!

Installation: Install a firehose diverter at a 30 degree angle to the road edge and point the outlet toward a stable vegetated area, rain garden, or area filled with crushed stone (like a driveway infiltration trench). A firehose diverter can be added in conjunction with other best management practices used to direct runoff water.

Maintenance: To maintain a firehose diverter, periodically check for holes and degradation over time. Replace hoses as needed.

Everyone likes an erosion-free property!

Tip: Ask your local firehouse if they have any old hose that they are willing to donate. Fire departments often have damaged hose that is not longer useful to them and often thrown away - these damages will not impair the hose's ability to function as a water diverter. And, it is a great way to repurpose something.



(Original text and photos from Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance)

NH LAKES is the only statewide, member-supported nonprofit organization working to ensure our lakes remain clean and healthy, now and in the future. For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603.226.0299.

