A Homeowner’s Guide to
BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES
in the Lake Tahoe Basin

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Lake Tahoe by visiting
tahoebmp.org

Restoring
Lake Tahoe

Keeping
Forests Healthy

Improving
Air Quality

Enhancing Recreation
& Scenic Resources

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You can make a difference in improving Lake Tahoe’s clarity.

What is the Problem?

Historically in the Tahoe Basin, the majority of stormwater was absorbed and filtered through the soil. With development came roads, driveways, and rooftops, causing rain and snowmelt to quickly flush pollutants into the nearest stream, ultimately ending up in Lake Tahoe. Sediment robs Lake Tahoe of its famous clarity and the nutrients feed algae growth.

For decades, Lake Tahoe clarity had been declining at a rate of about 1 foot per year. Since 2000, a new trend shows clarity loss is slowing. This declining clarity of Lake Tahoe has negative impacts for property values, recreation, tourism, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic value.

What are BMPs?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are proven methods that prevent sediment and nutrients from entering our waters. By installing BMPs, all property owners can help slow or reverse the loss of Lake clarity.

BMPs prescribed for residential properties may include:

- Paving dirt driveways
- Protecting the soil under drip lines of roofs by installing drain rock
- Stabilizing or retaining steep slopes and loose soils
- Vegetating and mulching bare soils

What You Can Do

STEP 1: Visit tahoebmp.org to request a site evaluation. Nevada homeowners can call 775-586-1610 x28, for California 530-543-1501 x113.

STEP 2: Install your BMPs or hire a qualified contractor.

STEP 3: Call for a final inspection

STEP 4: Maintain your BMPs.

For more information, visit tahoebmp.org

Mosaic landscaping incorporates a variety of materials.