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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Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
PO Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449
775.588.4547 phone
trpa.org
conservationclearly.org

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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.

Create a Tahoe Friendly Landscape – Defensible Space and BMPs

A mosaic landscape is created using a variety of materials and design throughout your property. The idea is to separate combustible areas, like planter beds with wood chips, with non-combustible areas, like gravel and healthy herbaceous plants. This greatly reduces the risk of fire reaching your home and also minimizes soil erosion by incorporating various surface treatments, like tilled in wood chips and vegetation, to prevent bare soil. TRPA works closely with fire agencies to ensure erosion control and defensible space measures are compatible.

What You Can Do

STEP 1: Visit tahoebmp.org for information on how to get a site evaluation.
STEP 2: Install your BMPs or hire a qualified contractor.
STEP 3: Call for a final inspection
STEP 4: Maintain your BMPs.

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

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Mosaic landscaping incorporates a variety of materials.