



Seasonal Docks, Boat Lifts, and Swimming Rafts on Alberta Lakes

In Alberta, water bodies and shore lands fall under the jurisdiction of the Provincial government. Most developments and activities affecting bodies of water require approvals from the Province. However, installation of seasonal structures such as docks, boat lifts, and swimming rafts do not currently require approvals, provided they fall within the following guidelines:

- Structures must be temporary (seasonal)
- Structures cannot be used for commercial use
- At the end of the recreational season, structures must be completely removed from the water and public lands, and stored on private property over the winter
- Structures cannot interfere with the normal movement and flow of water or cause an increase in shoreline erosion
- Structures cannot block public access to the water
- Structures cannot be located in an environmentally sensitive area identified by the Provincial or Federal government, or in an area where a water management or municipal development plan restricts such structures*

Most lakeshore properties in the Municipal District of Bonnyville are separated from the water by a municipally owned Environmental Reserve. These reserves are left in their natural state in order to protect the lake and shore, and provide public access to the water. As the shores and bodies of water are managed under the Public Lands Act, anyone has the right to install a temporary dock on lakes within the Municipal District of Bonnyville. Environmental and Municipal Reserves can be used by the public to gain access to the water. However structures of any kind cannot be constructed or stored on reserves.

Consider combining or sharing docks with neighbours and friends to minimize the number of docks and the resulting impact on our lakes.

For further information on docks and other lakeshore activities visit the Alberta Environment and Parks website (<http://aep.alberta.ca/lands-forests/shorelands/lakeshores/default.aspx>) or call AEP toll free at 1-877-944-0313, or contact the Municipal District of Bonnyville at 780-826-3171.

**Owners are encouraged to contact Alberta Environment and Parks at 780-310-3773 if they are unsure if their dock is in an environmentally sensitive area.*