

SIX WAYS TO HELP ARIZONA WATERS STAY BEAUTIFUL

WHY?

ADEQ wants you and future generations to enjoy our state's one-of-a-kind water recreation areas, but we need your help! Protecting our water is vital to:



Environment

Maintaining and respecting recreational water areas helps minimize our impact on the environment.



Public Health

Protecting our waters from human and animal waste helps prevent illness that can cause gastroenteritis, inflammation and infections.



Economy

Our state economy is largely built upon how well we protect, manage and conserve our waters. Clean recreation sites also help Arizona's tourism industry grow.

HOW? *Minimizing Impact with Healthy Beach Habits*

Pack it in, pack it out

Help protect the environment by using refillable drink containers and putting items like dirty diapers and your pet's waste in portable trash bags. Take your garbage with you to dispose of properly when you leave.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Glass and plastic take a long time to decompose, but are completely recyclable. A glass bottle in Arizona's lakes or rivers can take 4,000 years to even begin decomposing.



Visit azrecycles.gov to find recycling locations.

Wait for it

Our rivers and lakes are home to living organisms that we can't see. To avoid health risks, stay out of the water for 48 hours after a major storm or during an algal bloom.



Let it be

Remember: take only photos, leave only footprints. Removing or altering natural things in the environment can cause long term, unintended consequences to plant and wildlife. Chemicals left behind like bug spray, sun screen, cold packs and propane tanks can be especially detrimental.



Wash up afterward

When you're doing water-related activities, make sure your hands are washed thoroughly before eating to avoid ingesting harmful bacteria. Also, avoid swimming altogether if you have open cuts or wounds.



Don't drink it

Drinking only from facility fountains and your own containers can keep you and your loved ones safe from waterborne illness. Keeping your head above water can also protect you and your loved ones from waterborne illness.

If we all do our part, we can keep enjoying clean, healthy and beautiful waters.

Get Involved!

azdeq.gov/programs/azww

Join Arizona Water Watch

AWW's Citizen Science Water Monitoring program provides a unique opportunity for Arizonans age 10 and older to work with ADEQ scientists on scientific research and environmental protection of Arizona's waterways.

