



JLHOA Lake Water Treatment Policy

Purpose

Jensen Lakes uses routine water-quality treatments and professional testing to maintain a clean, safe, and enjoyable swimming environment. These treatments help control organic buildup, improve water clarity, and support the long-term health of the lake. To ensure treatments work effectively and safely, the lake may occasionally require temporary closures.

1. How We Monitor Water Quality

The JLHOA partners with *Smoky Trout Farm* and *Enviromak*, certified water-quality specialists who conduct regular testing throughout the season to monitor: bacteria levels, water clarity, algae activity, overall ecological health, among other factors.

These results guide our treatment schedule and inform decisions about closures, safety, and long-term lake management. Limnological reports for the year are provided by Enviromak and available for residents on the Jensen Lakes official website.

2. Why We Treat the Water

Like all natural and man-made lakes, Jensen Lakes accumulates algae, decaying plant matter, sediment, and potential invasive species. If unmanaged, these materials can:

- Reduce water clarity
- Increase muck buildup
- Create unpleasant odours
- Affect swimmer comfort and safety
- Disrupt ecological balance

To address this, the JLHOA applies:

- **MuckBiotics / MuckPucks:** beneficial bacteria that break down organic sludge
- **MetaFloc:** a natural flocculant that binds fine particles so they can settle or be removed.

Both products are commonly used in Alberta and are considered safe once settled overnight.

3. How the Treatment Works

During application:

- **MetaFloc** binds suspended particles and algae into clumps that float or sink
- **MuckBiotics** break down organic matter in shallow zones



Jensen Lakes

Last Revised: May 4, 2026

Residents may notice temporary cloudiness or clumped material along the shoreline or in coves. After treatment, JLHOA staff complete manual algae removal and place the collected material along the rock-wall perimeter to dry. Once fully dried, it is collected and removed.

4. Temporary Access Restrictions

To ensure treatments work effectively and safely, residents must stay clear of the designated swim area and lake perimeter during application. This includes:

- Swimming or wading
- Paddleboards, kayaks, or floaters
- Fishing from the JLHOA fishing pier

5. Open Water Access & Fishing

Open-water watercraft access and fishing remain permitted only in deep open water, well away from the shoreline and treatment perimeter.

Residents must:

- Stay clear of the shoreline and coves
- Avoid disturbing treated areas along the lake perimeter
- Keep watercraft and fishing lines away from JLHOA staff, the lake perimeter, and the swim area

Important:

- Open-water access is allowed but **strongly discouraged** during application. Entering the water or launching watercraft from private or shared docks during application, is at your own risk.

Disclaimer:

Exposure to treated water before it has settled may cause mild skin or eye irritation. Deep open water access during treatment is at your own risk.

6. Why Temporary Closures Are Required

Closures are necessary because:

- Treatments work best in calm, undisturbed water
- Settling overnight results in clearer, cleaner water
- Temporary closures prevent exposure while the products break down particles

Closures typically follow a biweekly schedule or occur as needed based on water conditions, weather, and test results.

7. How Long Closures Last



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Most closures are short and planned in advance. Applications occur in the evening, as early as **8:00 p.m.** The treatment works overnight, binding particles, debris, and algae so they can settle or be removed. The swim area reopens the next morning unless staff determine more time is needed. The full water treatment schedule is released in late April/early May by newsletter announcements and made available on the Jensen Lakes official website.

2026 Water Treatment Schedule (May–September)

Biweekly treatments will occur on **Wednesday evenings**, weather and staff permitting.

May 13

May 27

June 10

June 24

July 8

July 22

August 5

August 19

September 2

September 16

9. Post-Treatment Monitoring

After each treatment, JLHOA staff:

- Track the swim area, coves, and shoreline for algae build up and treatment progress
- Begin manual removal of algae and clumped material within 24 hours and allowed to dry along the rock wall perimeter
- Continue cleanup throughout the week, depending on staffing, weather, and lake conditions
- Collect dried material from the rock wall once fully dried

10. Lake Top-Up

Following ice melt at the end of the winter season, the JLHOA tops up lake levels to support:

- Healthy oxygen levels
- Improved water quality
- Reduced algae growth
- Stable beach size

Additional top-ups occur through summer and early fall. Weather and evaporation may affect timing. Staff balance safe water levels, ecosystem needs, resident use, and cost-effective management.

11. Aeration

Jensen Lakes uses an aeration system to circulate water and increase oxygen levels. When active, residents will see a large “cyclone” effect in the center of the lake. **Residents must stay clear of the center of the lake while the aerator is running.**



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The aerator is operated selectively to avoid disrupting resident enjoyment. Planned operation updates will be shared when possible.

A temporary “rotten egg” odour may occur when aeration begins. This is caused by natural gases released from deep water and is not harmful to humans or pets.

12. How Residents Will Be Notified

Residents will be informed of closures and treatment updates through JLHOA official channels:

- On-site signage
- Website and social media updates
- Email newsletters and announcements

13. Our Commitment to Lake Health

These treatments and closures are part of a broader lake-care program that includes:

- Regular water testing
- Monitoring clarity, algae levels, and ecological conditions
- Seasonal maintenance and shoreline management
- Adjusting treatment frequency based on environmental conditions and test results

Our goal is to maintain a clean, safe, and enjoyable lake while protecting the long-term health of Jensen Lake for the benefit of the entire Jensen Lakes community.

How Residents Can Help

Residents play an important role in supporting lake health:

- Plan ahead for treatment days using the published schedule, any changes to the schedule will be released as soon as possible through Jensen Lakes official channels.
- Leave MuckPucks in place, after application residents may notice white pellets in the treated areas. These white pellets contain beneficial bacteria and must remain in the water.
 - **Parents, please ensure children do not pick them up or remove them.**
- If residents can do so safely the JLHOA encourages manual removal of algae buildup in coves after treatment by placing it along the rock-wall perimeter for staff to collect using nets or rakes.
- Follow all posted signage and staff direction during treatment periods and closures
- Report concerns or buildup directly to JLHOA staff. Cleanup frequency varies with weather, staffing, and lake conditions, and resident reports help ensure nothing is missed