

Shoreline Maintenance Tools - Best Practices

(January 2026: T.Klaves and D. Lester)

The first step to restoring shoreline swimming and docking areas, to recreate a weed-free and firm sand lakebed, requires the cutting and removal of all rooted lake weeds and Chara algae followed by raking away the decaying plant detritus that has collected on the lake bottom as a layer of soft muck.

The first tool you will need is a throwable lake weed cutter. A simple internet search provides several popular models. Residents are familiar with a couple of these:

Jenlis The Original Weed Razer, Lake Weed Cutter, Large Pond Aquatic Plant Cutting Tool, Long and Sharp Razor Blades Shear Cattail, Reed, Lilly & Chara Algae, 48 Inch Cut Width, 25 Foot Throw Rope. Available on Amazon for \$169.99 plus tax.

Vevor Lake Weed Cutter, Pond Aquatic Plant Cutting Tool with 37 in Max. Cut Width, Sharp and Heavy-Duty Steel Blades, Pond Rake with 30 ft Throw Rope. **Available on Amazon for \$54.99 plus tax.**

The second tool you will need is a throwable muck and weed rake. There are many landscaping rakes that can be modified and used for this purpose as well.

Experience shows that lake weeds and muck flow over and around whatever you are using to collect or relocate them. Narrow and tall/long-tined rakes work better for this job than landscaping rakes with short, wide tines. Again, a simple internet search provides several popular models. One model looks like it will be very effective:

Extreme Max 3005.4389 The Needler Double-Sided Lake Weed Rake – 37" Head with 12" Tines, 2-in-1 Handle & Rope Setup. Available on Amazon for \$71.72 plus tax.

Search the Internet for other rakes with long tines. Those with thin wire strung through the tine tips also work very well.