

Town of Raymond, Maine Good Neighbor Guidelines

Welcome Home to Raymond, Maine! Our goal is to have everyone in our town, all guests and residents included, enjoy our beautiful and peaceful community. Treat the neighborhood with respect and be courteous to all who live and play here, including neighbors and wildlife.

- Please don't trespass on private property. Be aware of property lines, ask the owner or abutting neighbor if you have questions or concerns. Many lake-side neighborhoods are densely populated, and it is important to be aware of boundaries, both physical and social.
- The speed limit on all roads is posted and awareness of said speed limit is especially important on private roads. Speed limits are to keep our neighborhoods safe, prevent damage to our roads, and keep dust down (which is a pollutant to our lakes and an irritant to humans). Please observe all posted speed limits and drive carefully.
- Short Term Rentals in Raymond must observe Quiet Hours from 9 pm to 7 am Sunday through Thursday and 11 pm to 7 am Friday and Saturday nights. Most people visit Maine or live here for the quiet relaxation it affords. Loud radios, rowdy behavior and offensive language are not appreciated (or tolerated) by your neighbors, especially if they have young children, or need to get up early to go to work.
- Maine State law requires that fireworks cannot be set off after 10 pm, with the exception of the 4th of July and New Year's. Please consider the impact on neighbors, their pets, and wildlife.
- Maine boating laws include proper operation of watercrafts, the use of personal floatation equipment, personal watercraft (jet skis), speed limits, and the prohibition of operating under the influence. All trailered boats must now be drained and cleaned after each use. Please follow these laws. <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf>
- Camp or bonfires are allowed only with a Town of Raymond permit and property owner permission. If the property owner has not secured a permit, fires are not allowed.

While you're a guest in our wonderful town, make your stay pleasant and memorable. Please review the important information below.

I. Help Protect our Lakes

The lakes in our community are clean and beautiful, and like all bodies of water, they are sensitive. Your actions impact water quality. We all take responsibility in keeping our lakes clean and pure.

- Under Maine State law, no one can intentionally introduce foreign substances (including soap and shampoo) into our waters without a permit. Please use phosphate-free soaps for laundry and dishwashing, and do not bathe or wash hair in the lake. Phosphorus is the nutrient that most influences the growth of algae in lakes.
- Do not introduce foreign vegetation into our waters. Keep all watercrafts clean, before during and after your stay, including flushing the motor's impeller and draining the bilge after each trip,
- Do not remove vegetation in the lake or along the shoreline. Plants help filter out pollution and prevent erosion.

- Do not remove rocks from the shore. Stones and rocks that are either naturally or deliberately placed at the lakeside keep earth from getting into the lake. Do not allow youngsters to pick them up or throw them into the water.
- By Maine law, all boats must keep at, or under headway speed within 200 feet of shore.
- Excessive wakes near shore lead to rapid erosion problems, especially in the spring and fall when water levels are high. Please keep wakes to a minimum within 250 feet of shore.
- Please ensure that all watercraft, floatation devices and toys are secured onshore or to your dock. Free-floating objects pose a real danger to boaters, children tubing, water-skiers and swimmers.
- If you intend to fish while you're visiting, you must obtain a license. Please ensure you acquire the proper permit from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/>

II. Rental Property Occupancy

The rental property owner will provide the maximum number of occupants permitted to stay on the property. Compliance with occupancy rules is non-negotiable and will assure that you and your neighbors both enjoy your time at the property. Large gatherings that involve an assemblage of vehicles or persons in excess of the maximum allowable number of short-term guests is prohibited.

III. Keep the Septic System Safe

Septic systems are not sewers; the waste that goes into them stays on the premises. Please do not flush anything that is not entirely and rapidly biodegradable. Disposable diapers and personal cleanliness wipes are not flushable. If you are not sure whether or not something is really biodegradable, don't flush it! Please use your bathroom, you might be in the woods, but exposing yourself while urinating is not welcomed by your neighbors and could potentially damage the lake. Cooking grease is especially bad for septic systems. It rises to the top of the tank and clogs the intake baffle as it hardens. Fact: it can take as long as 30 years to biodegrade. Carefully place cooled cooking grease in a container and dispose of it in the trash.

IV. Secure Your Trash

Follow all guidelines set forth by the property owner. Trash bags must be tied securely and placed in provided trash receptacles. Please make sure lids of containers are secured tightly or strapped with a bungee cord to keep out animals. Never leave bags of trash out in the open, day or night.

V. Know Where to Park

The owner of your rental property should provide information detailing how many vehicles are allowed on the property, and where to park. Please be mindful of where you park; do not block driveways, fire hydrants, or the road itself. Many camp driveways are shared, with longstanding agreements between neighbors about how and where to park. Please respect the parking assigned to you.

VI. Control all Pets

Maine has a leash law. If your rental property allows pets, please keep your pet on the property and under your direct voice control or on a lead at all times. When you clean up after your pet, bag and discard the waste in the trash; pet waste can carry harmful bacteria and should not be left anywhere on the property aside from in a bag within a trash receptacle. Be considerate of your neighbors, as well as your pets regarding noise (i.e. barking). Do not leave your pet alone indoors or out, where they may bark, whine, or cry for you. There are several pet boarding options available in town.

VII. Wildlife Protection

Be considerate of our wildlife. Their habitat is precious to all of us. Keep their surroundings safe, clean, and peaceful. Do not agitate the lakefront unnecessarily where all animals, especially waterfowl and turtles may be nesting. In particular, the Common Loons are protected from pursuit, harassment and capture by federal law. While it may be tempting to get close to these majestic birds, human disturbance is one of the greatest threats to Loons' breeding success. As with all wildlife, you may enjoy from a distance.

VIII Noise and Nuisance

Raymond Short Term Rentals are required to observe Quiet Hours Sunday-Thursday 9 pm to 7 am and Friday and Saturday nights from 11 pm to 7 am. During Quiet Hours, please remember to keep music, speech and animals quiet. A good rule of thumb is, if you can hear anything louder than a normal speaking voice at the property line, even intermittently, you are probably in violation and upsetting your neighbors.

Raymond Short-term Rentals are governed by Ordinance. Owners are fined or may lose their ability to rent their property completely if these rules are not followed by their guests. It is the responsibility of the owner(s) and guest(s) to ensure peace and order while enjoying your stay. Disruption of the peace and tranquility of neighbors, disturbing wildlife and destruction of property and lake ecosystems are a few violations that put the owner's license at risk. Local residents will use the established system for complaining and enforcing these rules.