

DNR cautions lake and river property owners about improper use of hydraulic jets

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to blast muck and aquatic plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though they can be purchased in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of a waterbody or uproots plants.

A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed at the surface of the water in a way such that it does not disturb the bottom or destroy rooted aquatic plants. It should be directed slightly upward toward the water's surface. This can prevent dead vegetation and duckweed from collecting around docks and boat lifts.

Aquatic plants are important to lakes and rivers. They help maintain water clarity, prevent erosion, stabilize the bottom of the waterbody, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants are protected under state law.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the [DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html) (mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html). To apply for an aquatic plant management permit, visit the DNR's [permitting and reporting system](#)