

# Are you responsible with your boat wake?



Missouri waterways have become increasingly busy over the past few decades. Along with the increased boat traffic, the size of motorboats continues to grow, particularly on our larger lakes. Where there are boats, there are boat wakes. Please join the Missouri State Highway Patrol in promoting wake courtesy to minimize the danger to others using our waterways, damage to docks, and erosion to our shorelines. Operating a motorboat at “plowing” speed is necessary at times, but should not be the norm.

Please make note of these reminders so you are part of the solution and not part of the problem:

- Operate your boat at idle speed, or when you are safely able to do so, operate on plane. Do not continuously plow unless absolutely necessary.
- Boats that cause excessive wakes should always operate in the middle of the lake to allow their boat wake time and distance to lose energy.
- Plowing within cove locations is discouraged, unless safety or water sport activities require you to do so.
- Water sport activities requiring excessive boat wakes should be reserved for areas of our lakes where the danger to boaters, damage to docks, or significant shoreline erosion is limited.
- Cruiser and houseboat owners and operators are a significant and important part of our boating communities, but these boat owners and operators require heightened awareness of the wake they are causing.
- Remember to be courteous. If you were in a small boat attempting to navigate your boat wake, or you owned a dock that has to survive your boat wake, would you be operating in the same manner? ***Treat other boaters and property owners as you would want to be treated.***
- Causing harm to another person or their property with an excessive boat wake may subject you to enforcement action or civil liability.

The great state of Missouri has many beautiful waterways, all of which allow for a wide variety of boating activities. Responsible and courteous boaters help make our waterways safe and enjoyable for everyone’s use.

**Call \*55 for an emergency.**  
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