

**Waterlines Express – Remove aerators in winter**

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**Remove aerators in winter**

November is time to remove any aerators that were placed in your lake last spring or summer. According to the Public Freshwater Lake Rules' general license for aerators (312 IAC 11-3-1.2), these devices may only be operated from March through October.

While running an aerator can provide environmental and recreational benefits, it also poses a public safety hazard for lake users in the winter. Aerators can create open areas of water where ice would naturally form, leading to thin or disrupted ice formation beyond the immediate area of open water.

The complete guidelines in the [General License for aerators](#) are designed to ensure they serve their intended purposes while maintaining safety standards and minimizing environmental impact. Proper adherence to these requirements helps preserve the natural balance of freshwater lakes while providing the intended benefits to the ecosystem and community.

"In the winter months, aerators can pose a hazard by creating open areas and causing water to freeze with inconsistencies in ice thickness. Lakes with aerators should be avoided and the public should always remember, no ice is safe ice!", says Captain Jet Quillen, DNR Law Enforcement.

Additional resources from the DNR Division of Law Enforcement about ice fishing and recreating on ice can be found on the [DNR website](#).







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