



# Lake Alpine Water Company

## Bear Lake Updates

Recreational Use: Bear Lake is the source of water for Lake Alpine Water Company (LAWC) customers. It comes from springs located high above on the home run slopes as well as snow melt and rain run-off throughout the year. Through a legislative exemption, Bear Lake is also open for recreational use by Bear Valley Residents, Inc. (BVRI) members only. It's ok to swim, wade, paddle board, kayak, sail, wind surf, float, fish, and row. It is not ok to use any type of motorized vessel. Join BVRI at [bvri.org](http://bvri.org) and enjoy your summer.

Water temperature: The spillway at Bear Lake has been flowing since January 1, 2023. The lake will struggle to warm up until the spillway stops flowing. In the past 20 years, the latest the spillway has stopped flowing was July 26, 2019. We shall wait to see when this summer's date hits the calendar. Once the ice melts off the lake, I will measure the surface temperature and clarity each week and post the results on NextDoor.

Sunscreen Use: In recent years there has been a lot of information about sunscreen ingredients, and which are safest for you and best for the environment in which you recreate. If you are new to this topic, here is a good summary article. <https://www.wederm.com/2021/08/24/mineral-vs-chemical-sunscreen-which-is-best/>. New research is revealing that chemical-based sunscreens are also hazardous to freshwater organisms in ways similar to the hazards they pose to coral reefs and ocean organisms. <https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/university-alberta/common-sunscreen-ingredients-prove-dangerous-freshwater-ecosystems>

The ecosystem cycle of algae to phytoplankton to zooplankton to bugs, amphibians and fish is important for controlling algae and maintaining water clarity and oxygen levels. Most of these microorganisms live on the water's surface where we play and where our sunscreen washes off into the water. LAWC encourages all Bear Lake visitors to use only 'Reef-safe' mineral sunscreens made without chemical blockers. Best products are made from non-nano titanium dioxide and zinc oxide. For your health, the Granular Activated Carbon filters at the treatment plant can remove sunscreen chemicals. We can proactively provide a healthy environment for the lake creatures by reducing their exposure, too. Keeping Bear Lake healthy is the first step in treatment for your drinking water. Thank you for participating.

Pets Stay Home: Pets of all types are not welcome at Bear Lake. You may walk your dog across the Reba Dam but they are not allowed on the trail, beaches, or in the water. You must remove your dog's waste from the dam. Why these rules? Dogs can be disruptive at beaches, they poop in public locations, and can contaminate the water with whatever they rolled in earlier that day. Pets can visit Lake Alpine up on Highway 4. Thank you for being a conscientious lake visitor.

As always, feel free to call 209-753-2409 or email [info@lakealpinewater.com](mailto:info@lakealpinewater.com). Thank you.  
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