

TimberChar (previously BioChar) Filters are –

BioChar (now TimberChar) is a hardwood charcoal based filter created and distributed by Eden Lakes.

- The charcoal is contained in a porous fabric (tube shaped) that is closed at each end of the tube by knotting the tube material, containing the charcoal filter between the knots.
- The passive filter are designed to be suspended (not touching the bottom) below riparian's docks and/or boat lifts.
- The natural movement of the lake waters allows lake water to flow across/through the porous filters and across the surface of the charcoal, with the goal being that the charcoal bits absorb certain pollutants thereby 'holding' them until the filter is retired from service.
- Each filter has a three-year life span (when removed with the docks/lifts in the Fall and reinstalled with the same the next Spring).
- Those filters that are retired each year were returned to Eden Lakes for testing/analysis and the charcoal material is repurposed as fertilizer.

Use of BioChar on Silver Lake was recommended in the SLIB/RLS 5-year Lake Management Plan (2023-2027) proposed and approved in spring 2023.

- Silver Lake is one of the first lakes approved by EGLE to use the hardwood based charcoal filters.
- ~600 individual filters were distributed in June 2023 for placement in the lake going into the Summer 2023 season.
- In addition to the individual filters, larger filter configurations we placed on seven different tributaries to Silver Lake, in 2023.
- One-third of the individual filters are intended to be retired each year.
- Participants were asked to leave one-third of their filters along the waterfront roadways to be collected by SLIB representatives for testing and new (replacement) filters would be left for installation the following Spring.
- This sequence of replacement will make sure all filters will be replaced every three years.
- Filters are marked with a Zip Tie of a particular color so that we can tell the difference between the filters across time.
 - Year 1 - 2023 original filters were identified with a BLACK Zip Tie.
 - Year 2 - 2024 new filters were identified with a WHITE Zip Tie (exchanged in fall of 2023).
 - Year 3 - 2025 new filters were identified with an ORANGE Zip Tie (exchanged in fall of 2024).
 - Year 4 - 2026 no new filters purchased (ORANGE Zip Tie filters again exchanged in fall 2025).
- Exchange Schedule – years the filters should be used:

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
BLACK	BLACK	BLACK		
	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	
		ORANGE	ORANGE	ORANGE

Instructions for proper installation and configuration photos can be found on the Friends of Silver Lake - <https://friendsofsilverlake.org/silver-lake-water-quality-management/>.

Tim Beggs, an Oceana County Commissioner and member of the SLIB, has the remaining individual filters and supplies (ropes and floats). Please contact him at tbeggs@oceana.mi.us to arrange pickup.

If you have and questions about the TimberChar program, please contact FoSL at friendssilverlake@gmail.com we'll do our best to get answers.