



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**
Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.
StopAquaticHitchhikers.org



Aquatic Invasive Species

Cleaning Your Watercraft

It may seem like an odd time of the year to be discussing cleaning your boat....but we all seem to have a little extra time on our hands...so why not. Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species is important and it starts with clean boats.

Here are four simple steps to remember every time your boat is removed from the water or prior to launching it.

CLEAN Cleaning will remove visible large-bodied organisms attached to or in watercraft or recreational equipment. Rinsing with water removes organisms, while hot water often *kills them*. Water at least 120°F is recommended. If hot water is not available or may cause damage, rinsing with tap water and completely drying will help prevent spread of aquatic invasive species.

- Rinse equipment and boat hulls (with high pressure, hot water when possible)
- Rinse interior compartments of boats with low pressure, hot water (120°F)
- Flush motor with hot water (120°F) for 2 minutes (or according to owner's manual).

DRAIN Motor, bilge, livewell, and other water containing devices before leaving water access or prior to launching. Draining removes small and nearly invisible organisms such as zebra mussel larvae (veligers) potentially entrained in water containing devices.



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DRY Everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse. Organisms can live in standing water.

For ANGLERS, the additional step of DISPOSE is recommended:

DISPOSE Of unwanted bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash. When keeping live bait, drain bait container and replace with spring or dechlorinated tap water. Never dump live fish or other organisms from one water body into another.

Together, the four steps of **Clean Drain Dry Dispose** greatly minimize the risk of spreading Aquatic Hitchhikers into new locations.

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