

ATTENTION NEW BOAT OWNERS!

Help keep our waterways free of invasive species



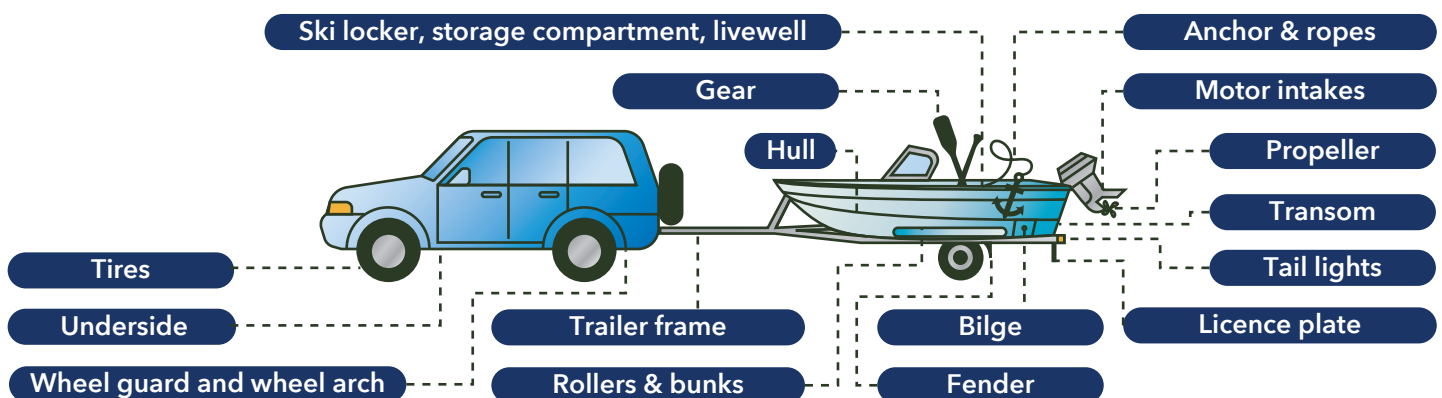
Movement of boats and boating equipment between waterbodies is a major pathway for aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread. Because of this, **it's the law in Ontario** that watercrafts and watercraft equipment are free of AIS before traveling overland or entering a new body of water. Following the **Clean, Drain, Dry** method mitigates the risk of spread and aligns with the new provincial legislation.

Before transporting your watercraft overland, you are **required** to:

CLEAN your boat and any boating gear after leaving a waterbody. This means removing any mud, vegetation, algae, mussels, and other debris from even the smallest crevasses of your vessel. Having access to hot, pressurized water and a brush or sponge is an effective way to ensure all debris is removed. Removed plant parts, animals, or mud can be disposed of in a garbage can. If a garbage can is not available, dispose of these materials on dry land at least 30 metres from any waterbody.

DRAIN your boat and boating gear of all water it may be storing. Open drain plugs and empty your bilge, livewells, fish-holding containers, and any other water-storing boating equipment or compartment.

Places to Check for Hidden Aquatic Invasive Species



It is **recommended** that you:

DRY or disinfect your vessel and equipment before entering a new water body. Allow your vessel and equipment to air dry completely, ideally for at least five days, or use hot water or high-pressure water to help remove or kill hidden aquatic invasive species (AIS). Drying with a cloth will also improve the effectiveness of this method.

Impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species

An aquatic invasive species is any invertebrate, fish, aquatic plant, or pathogen that thrives outside of its native habitat, while negatively impacting its host environment, economy, and/or society. Introducing AIS to a new waterbody can have a wide range of negative impacts, including:

- ◆ Damage to watercrafts and equipment
- ◆ Displacement of native species
- ◆ Reduction of angling opportunities
- ◆ Interruption of natural water flow
- ◆ Creation of physical barriers, stopping boaters
- ◆ Decrease tourism and recreation opportunities
- ◆ Management costs to landowners
- ◆ ...And many more!

What To Look Out For

Some common invasive species you might encounter when cleaning, draining, and drying your watercraft:



Zebra/Quagga Mussels



Spiny Water Flea



Hydrilla

What to do if you find AIS

Reporting aquatic invasive species sightings is essential for effective monitoring, management, and control. If you believe you've encountered an AIS, take a photo, note the location, and report it online through the EDDMapS app or at eddmappings.org, or by calling the Invading Species Hotline at **1-800-563-7711**.



Invasive
Species
Centre

The **INVASIVE SPECIES CENTRE** is a non-profit organization that mobilizes action against invasive species that harm the environment, economy, and society in Canada.

For more information and to sign up for invasive species news, visit www.invasivespeciescentre.ca. f @ in v x