

# Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

## CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT

Zebra mussels



Zebra mussels on boat prop



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The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment is working to raise awareness and protect Saskatchewan waterways from harmful aquatic invasive species, including zebra and quagga mussels.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native animals or plants that can be spread through water or by attaching to watercraft, trailers and related equipment.

Here's how you can help protect Saskatchewan waters from aquatic invasive species!

**Before returning home from out of province, coming to visit or moving between waters within the province make sure to:**

### CLEAN

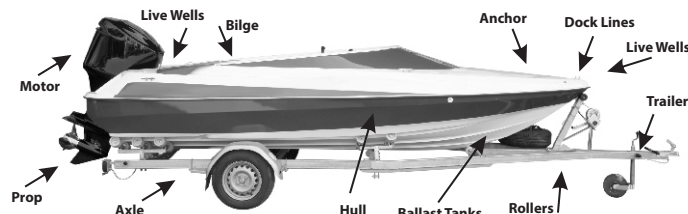
- Clean and inspect watercraft, trailer, equipment and all related gear.
- Remove all visible plants, animals and mud before leaving the boat launch area.
- Inspect drain holes, transducers, motors, propellers, including the trailer and vehicle.
- Wash, scrub or rinse using hot tap water away from storm drains, ditches and waterways.

### DRAIN

- On land before leaving the boat launch area, drain all on-board water from the motor, livewells, bilge, ballast tanks, etc.
- Flush with hot tap water away from storm drains, ditches and waterways.
- Leave plugs out during transport and storage.

### DRY

- Dry your watercraft, equipment and all related gear between trips, while leaving compartments open to dry.



The Ministry of Environment has established an aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program focusing on raising public awareness to protect Saskatchewan's waterways from the spread of harmful AIS.

### Quick facts

- Zebra and quagga mussels are virtually impossible to eradicate.
- Once introduced and established, they can spread rapidly – with one female producing up to a million eggs per year.
- Invasive mussels can disrupt natural food chains, create toxic algae blooms that can kill fish and birds, decrease property values and reduce recreational enjoyment of natural areas.
- They can also cause millions of dollars in damage to water-operated infrastructure and can clog water supplies to SaskPower facilities, hindering power generation.
- These mussels also pose a risk for cottages and homes that rely on these waterways for their water supply.
- Any freshwater mussel that is attached to your equipment is an invasive mussel and should be reported to the TIP line below immediately.
- Invasive aquatic plants, such as the Eurasian water milfoil, can crowd out our native plants, damaging ecosystems and hindering recreational activities.
- Washing your boat with hot water and following the CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY protocol on the reverse side will greatly reduce the threat of spreading these species.

The Ministry of Environment and SaskPower are working with other environmental stakeholders to help keep these invasive species out of our waterways.

**To report suspect invasive species, please contact the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP Line.**

[saskatchewan.ca/environment](http://saskatchewan.ca/environment) | 1-800-667-7561