



## BOATERS | Action Plan

Letting invasive species aboard your boat helps them spread in our lakes, rivers and streams and costs us millions to repair their damage.

Learn what you can do to stop them from taking over.

### 1. CLEAN YOUR BOAT AND GEAR

Before leaving the water, clean any mud, vegetation, mussels or anything suspicious from your boat, motor, trailer or fishing equipment. Zebra and quagga mussels are happy to hang onto your hull, while aquatic plants like Eurasian water-milfoil hide on your motor, anchor and trailer.

### 2. DRAIN BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Drain all standing water by pulling the plug on your transom and live well at the boat launch. Never take an aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another.

### 3. DRY OR DISINFECT

Some aquatic invasive species can survive up to 2 weeks out of water and not every invader attached to your boat can be seen with the naked eye. To remove invaders you can't see before travelling to a new body of water, either:

- dry your boat for at least 5 days in sunlight
- clean your boat from top to bottom with hot water over 50°C or pressurized water over 250 PSI

### 4. AVOID AQUATIC PLANTS

Avoid driving your boat through aquatic plants. Propellers can break them loose and spread invasive species.

### 5. KNOW THE RULES

Never transport or release a prohibited invasive species. It's illegal to import, possess, deposit, release, transport, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade a prohibited invasive species in Ontario.

If you're boating in a body of water where prohibited invasive aquatic plants are found, try to avoid the infested area. You must also:

- avoid spreading these plants to another part of the body of water
- remove the plants from your boat, motor and trailer before travelling over land
- dispose of the plants so they won't end up back in the water

### 6. REPORT ALL INVADERS

Call the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 to report an invasive species sighting or download the [EDDMapS Ontario app](#) to report an invader on the spot.

### 7. STOP THE INVASION

To learn more about how you can stop the invasion, visit [ontario.ca/invasionON](https://ontario.ca/invasionON) to download action plans for Boaters, Hikers, Cottagers and Gardeners.

For more information on invasive species and a list of our partners, visit [ontario.ca/invasionON](https://ontario.ca/invasionON).