

QUICK FACTS

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT ALBERTA'S WATERS FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES?

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native animals or plants that have been brought from other places into Alberta's waterways. If you are transferring a boat or equipment used in water (i.e. hip waders, life jackets, paddles, construction equipment, etc.) between waterbodies, make sure to:

CLEAN

- Clean and inspect watercraft and gear.
- Remove all mud, sand, and plant materials before leaving the shore.
- Mix 20 millilitres of bleach with one litre of water and soak your gear for at least one minute.
- Rinse, scrub or pressure wash your kayak or canoe away from storm drains, ditches or waterways. Use hot water if possible (90°C or hotter).

DRAIN

- On land before leaving the waterbody, drain all water from places where it could have collected during use, including internal compartments, livewells, buckets, etc.
- Drain by inverting or tilting the watercraft, opening compartments and removing seats if necessary.

DRY

- Dry the kayak or canoe and gear completely between trips and allow the wet areas to air dry.
- Leave compartments open and sponge out standing water.



The Government of Alberta has established an aquatic invasive species program to protect Alberta's waterways from the harmful spread of aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil.

QUICK FACTS:

- Many aquatic invasive species, such as zebra mussels, are very difficult to eradicate once they are established, so prevention is essential.
- Invasive mussels can cause millions of dollars in damage to water-operated infrastructure, disrupt natural food chains, create toxic algal blooms that can kill fish and birds, decrease property values and reduce recreational enjoyment of natural areas;
- A zebra or quagga infestation in Alberta is estimated to cost over \$75 million annually;
- Any freshwater mussel that is attached to your equipment is an invasive mussel and must be reported;
- One female mussel can produce up to a million eggs in a year;
- Aquatic invasive plants, such as the Eurasian watermilfoil, can crowd out native plants, damage ecosystems and hinder recreational activities;
- Eurasian watermilfoil fragments form new plants, making it difficult to remove them from a lake; and
- Have your boat inspected — it is now mandatory for all watercraft, including kayaks and canoes, to stop for an inspection in Alberta.
- Follow the CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY protocols on your boat and equipment to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Do not use commercial car washes to clean your kayak or canoe — water is not hot enough and mussels may survive and spread.

ZEBRA MUSSELS



2.0 cm

QUAGGA MUSSELS



2.5 cm

**EURASIAN
WATERMILFOIL**



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL:

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