

BEFORE You Launch... BEFORE You Leave...

CLEAN

Inspect your boat and trailer and **REMOVE** all plant, mud and debris before and after outings to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers

CLEANING CHECKLIST FOR BOATS & EQUIPMENT

	Hull & Trailer
	Engine & Propeller
	Anchor & Rope
	Drain Live Wells/Ballasts
	PFDs, Gear & Equipment

Use high-pressure water, well away from the water's edge, to properly clean and decontaminate your boat and gear.



DRAIN

Drain **ALL WATER** from your boat, motor, ballasts and live wells on land to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers



Zebra mussel larva and microscopic organisms like spiny water fleas can survive in wet areas for days or weeks, making it essential to drain your boat.

WAIT! DON'T DUMP YOUR BAIT!

Releasing live bait into lakes and rivers is a major source of invasives.



Always dispose of unwanted bait at **HOME- NOT in the water!**

DRY

Allow your boat, trailer and all equipment to **DRY COMPLETELY** between outings to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers.

AT A MINIMUM, PLEASE ALLOW
AT LEAST 48 HOURS
FOR BOATS AND GEAR TO DRY

Some organisms can survive in damp areas for days or weeks, making it essential to allow your boat and gear to dry completely. Drying times often vary by season and under changing weather conditions.

Please remember to leave your boat plug out while towing.



The longer you can allow your boat and gear to dry, the better!

A **10% bleach solution** may be alternately used to decontaminate gear but should be **rinsed thoroughly** away from the water's edge.

Why Should You Care?



AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

are plants or animals that are not native to a water body and have been known to cause significant economic or ecological harm, such as:

- ⇒ **Loss of biodiversity**
- ⇒ **Altered aquatic food webs**
- ⇒ **Reduced water quality**
- ⇒ **Reduced public safety and health**
- ⇒ **Decline in fisheries and habitat**
- ⇒ **Damage to infrastructure**
- ⇒ **Loss of tourism and recreation**

The U.S. spends nearly \$8 billion per year on invasive species control and mitigation.



RECREATIONAL BOATING

is a major cause of the spread of invasive species from one water body to the next.



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

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Resource Assessment Service
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410-260-8367 phone

DNR.MARYLAND.GOV

All Maryland state parks are **Trash Free**.
Please pack out what you pack in.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 1-877-620-8DNR
dnr.maryland.gov/invasives**

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request.

Please refer to Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR 08.02.19.05) for more detailed information regarding aquatic invasive species laws and regulations.

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ATTENTION BOATERS!



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Be A Good Steward.
Clean. Drain. Dry.
StopAquaticHitchhikers.org



IT'S THE LAW!

Code of Maryland Regulation 08.02.19.05