

STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) threaten Manitoba's waters. Species such as zebra mussels can cause major negative economic, environmental and social impacts to water-users such as boaters, fishers, recreational water-users and industry.



Use this checklist in the OPEN-WATER SEASON to help stop the introduction and spread of AIS.

In Manitoba,

- **you must be free of AIS.**
- drain plugs must be removed when transporting watercraft over land. The exception are plugs used in onboard kitchen or washroom facilities.
- where required, watercraft and water-related equipment must be decontaminated by following the Approved Decontamination Methods (Schedule B and C) of the Government of Manitoba's Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation.
- a watercraft is defined as anything designed to transport a person on water and includes canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, sailboats, Jet Skis®, and power boats such as pontoon and fishing boats.
- water-related equipment is defined as any equipment that comes into contact with water for example, fishing gear, anchors, bait buckets, ropes, nets, buoys, inflatables, wakeboards, waders, pumps, outboard motors and docks.

Note: if you are uncertain whether you have been in an aquatic invasive species invaded water body, it is recommended to decontaminate the watercraft and all water-related equipment **before** placing these items into a water body in Manitoba.

BEFORE ENTERING A WATERBODY, you need to...

- ensure watercraft and water-related equipment are free of AIS, aquatic plants (e.g., "weeds" and algae) and mud.
- drain any residual water from the watercraft (e.g., the live well, bilge, motors and compartments) and water-related equipment on land **away from the water body**. This includes water in bait buckets and containers.
- ensure the water-related equipment that was last used in **another** water body than the one you are entering is **dried completely** or decontaminated.

Note: if returning to the **same** water body on the **next** trip, drying completely or decontamination is not required.

AFTER EXITING A WATER BODY, you need to...

- remove AIS and aquatic plants (e.g., “weeds” and algae) from watercraft and water-related equipment **before leaving the shore**. If you cannot remove the AIS before leaving the shore you must obtain a Transportation Authorization.
- drain all water from the watercraft (e.g., the live well, bilge, motors and compartments) and water-related equipment **before leaving the shore**.
- open drain plugs/valves and leave them open while transporting watercraft over land. The exception are plugs used in onboard kitchen or washroom facilities.

As a reminder, all water-related equipment must be dried completely or decontaminated **before** it is placed into **another** water body.

Note: if returning to the **same** water body on the **next** trip, drying completely or decontamination is not required.

WHEN LEAVING AN AIS CONTROL ZONE, in addition to the exiting steps above, you need to...

- obtain a Transportation Authorization if you cannot remove the AIS **before leaving the shore**.
- dispose of all bait (e.g., live or dead) **before leaving the shore**.
- decontaminate watercraft and water-related equipment **before** placing them into **another** water body. Note: if returning to the **same** water body on the **next** trip, decontamination is not required.

To decontaminate you can:

- visit a provincial Watercraft Inspection Station. There is no cost for this service.

OR

- self-decontaminate by following the Approved Decontamination Methods. When choosing this option, watercraft and water-related equipment must also be dried completely **before** they are placed into **another** water body.

NEED MORE INFORMATION

visit: Manitoba.ca/StopAIS or call (toll-free):

1-87-STOP AIS-0

SET FINES FOR AIS OFFENCES ARE IN EFFECT YEAR-ROUND AND RANGE FROM \$174 TO \$2,542 (FOR INDIVIDUALS).

**PROTECT MANITOBA'S WATER BODIES FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS).
BE PART OF THE SOLUTION AND DO YOUR PART - EVERY TIME.**