

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.
- 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 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 WATER BODY, 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 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.

To decontaminate watercraft and water-related equipment you can:

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

OR

- follow the Approved Decontamination Methods for watercraft (Schedule B) and water-related equipment (Schedule C) of the Manitoba government's Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation. When choosing this option, watercraft and water-related equipment must also be dried completely **before** they are placed into **another** water body.

AFTER EXITING A WATER BODY, and at the shore, you need to...

- remove AIS and aquatic plants (e.g., weeds and algae) from watercraft and water-related equipment. 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.
- open drain plugs/valves and leave them open while transporting watercraft over land. The exception are plugs used in onboard kitchen or washroom facilities.

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 remaining bait **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
- follow the Approved Decontamination Methods (Schedule B and C) of the Manitoba government's Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation. 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.**