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HOW YOU CAN STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive species are animals or plants that are not native to Alberta's aquatic habitats. Controlling the spread of some of these invasive species is especially tricky as many have impressive adaptations that allow them to survive. The larvae for zebra mussels for instance are able to survive drying out for days, allowing them to hitch a ride on boats and dispersing into new habitats. Let's help out our fishy friends to prevent this by following a few key things!

PROPERLY CLEAN ALL EQUIPMENT

- Soak or scrub all equipment in contact with water in a bleach solution for ~1 minute
- Absorbent equipment (felt on waders) may be soaked in hot water for ~40 minutes
- Rinse or pressure wash boats and other watercrafts with hot water (~50 degrees Celsius) **NOT** near drains or water bodies

DRAIN AND DRY

- **It's the law** to pull the drain plug out of all watercrafts before travelling in Alberta
- Drain all ballasts, bilges, buckets, and other containers before transferring to another water body
- Dry watercrafts and equipment before transferring to another water body, air drying if necessary

PROPER ANIMAL DISPOSAL AND INVASIVE IDENTIFICATION

- Dispose of fish carcasses and unused bait in the garbage
- Do not transfer fish, animals, or plants between different water bodies
- Do not release pets into water bodies and return them to the pet store instead
- Learn to identify key traits of invasive species and become aware of which habitats are infested

For more information visit: <https://abinvasives.ca> and www.albertaaquarium.ca

