

WHAT BOATERS CAN DO TO STOP THE SPREAD OF QUAGGA/ZEBRA MUSSELS



You can prevent spreading quagga and zebra mussels by following these steps every time you exit a waterbody:

- Physically inspect all exposed surfaces of your boat or watercraft. Very small quagga/zebra mussels will feel like sandpaper to the touch.
- Remove aquatic plants from watercraft, motor, and trailer. Check all underwater fittings and equipment, such as rollers, axle, bilge, and trailer, and above water equipment, such as anchors, and, live wells. Dispose of aquatic plants in the trash.
- Dispose of unused live bait in the trash.
- For personal watercraft, impeller areas can contain quagga/zebra mussels and aquatic plants. Once on the trailer, run the engine for five to 10 seconds to blow out excess water, mussels and plants.
- Drain all water from the watercraft including from the motor, bilges, live wells, and bait buckets.
- Thoroughly wash the hull and all water tanks. This is especially important if the watercraft has been moored for more than a day.
- Preferably wash with a hot water, high-pressure hose, but if unavailable any potable water source is better than nothing.
- If a trailer was used to remove the watercraft from the water, thoroughly wash the trailer as well
- Drain all wash water and dry the watercraft and trailer.
- Watercraft should remain dry and out of water for a minimum of five days or longer between launches.
- Exercise patience at watercraft inspections. If you have followed these steps you have improved the likelihood you will breeze through an inspection.

For detailed, boat-specific instructions on cleaning and inspecting a watercraft, visit: <http://www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=4957>.