



The Four things You Can Do to Stop the Spread of Zebra Mussels & Other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Zebra mussels, and other AIS, pose a real threat to our pristine northern waterways. Please do your part and follow these **four simple steps**:

1. CLEAN - DRAIN – DRY* it takes 5 minutes!

- Remove all weeds and mud from your watercraft**, engine and trailer
- Lower outboard engines and pull live well plugs to drain all water
- Wipe off your watercraft, engine, trailer, and items that have been in the water
- Allow watercraft, anchor lines and wet equipment time to completely dry before the next launch



2. PULL YOUR PLUG

- Drain all water from your watercraft
- Transport your watercraft without the plug in– this is the law!

3. DECONTAMINATE – IF NECESSARY

- When your watercraft has been in zebra mussel invaded waters or within a “Control Zone”, have it decontaminated
- Decontamination is available at government decontamination stations – free of charge.
- To learn more about control zones and hours of operation of decontamination stations visit: https://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/spread/watercraft_inspection.html or check out our website below

4. TELL OTHERS – SPREAD THE WORD!

- The spread can be stopped with your help

This notice is provided by *Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways* Inc. www.zebramusselprevention.com



use phone camera to
scan code to learn more

*Modified from Manitoba Government Information

**a watercraft includes boats, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and personal watercraft

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What Are Zebra Mussels?



Credit: U of Minnesota

- They are a small clam 1-3cm in length
- They are not from here – they came to North America in ship ballast water in the late 1980's
- By 2013 they were in Lake Winnipeg - 2019 they were detected in the Nelson River System and are now found the entire length of the Nelson River
- They change the aquatic ecosystem, accumulate on hard surfaces and wash up on shore
- Zebra mussel larvae are microscopic and easily transported between lakes by watercraft

Zebra Mussel accumulation – Nelson River 2021 just two years after detection!



Credit: Don Thompson



Credit: Salmon Arm Observer

They can accumulate on boat propellers and clog water intake pipes

The sharp shells wash up on beaches



Credit: John Kari, U of Wisconsin Sea Grant



Credit: Peter Yates/The LIFE Images Collection/Getty Image