



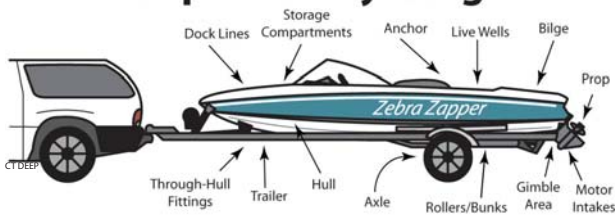
# CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

Watch out for unwanted aquatic hitchhikers when you move from one waterway to another!




Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that threaten native plants, wildlife, and their habitats. They also affect humans by degrading recreational, boating, and fishing areas and by reducing lakeshore property values. Once AIS are established, eradication is almost impossible.

## WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS

Before leaving and before launching...  
**inspect everything!**



### When you leave a waterway:

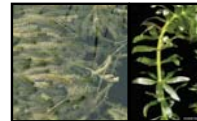
-  Clean and remove all visible plants, animals, fish, and mud from your boat, trailer, or equipment. Dispose of removed material in a trash container on land.
-  Drain water from bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, and any other location with water before leaving launch.
-  Dry anything that comes into contact with water. A drying time of at least five days is recommended.

**Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a waterway unless they came from that waterway.**



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)



### Hydrilla

- Blade-like leaves in whorls of 4 to 8
- Forms dense beds
- Plant fragments attach to boats & trailers



### Asian Clam

- Rounded, triangular shell; brown/purple
- Lives on sand & gravel substrates
- Travels in bait buckets



### European Frog-bit

- Heart-shaped leaves, 2" wide
- Forms dense, free-floating mats
- Plant fragments attach to boats & trailers



### Spiny Waterflea

- Tiny, 1/2" crustacean; long, barbed tail
- Competes with fish for food
- Masses collect on fishing line



### Water Chestnut

- Triangular leaves; toothed edges
- Forms dense floating mats
- Seeds & plants attach to trailers



### Bloody Red Shrimp

- Small, <1/2" shrimp-like crustacean
- Competes with fish for food
- Travels in water of bilge & bait buckets



### Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

- Virus of fresh and saltwater fish
- Causes bleeding of fish skin, fins, & eyes
- Spread by infected fish, equipment, & water

**The Finger Lakes Institute Watercraft Steward Program is an education and outreach program working to inform the public about the best practices for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.**



Cayuga County Department of Planning and Development

HOWARD AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

**For more information go to <http://flisteward.wordpress.com/>**

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Photo credits: Hydrilla- (L) David J. Moorhead (R) Robert Videki; AC and EF- Sarah Meyer; BRS- (L) NOAA (R) J.L. Courteau/J. Marty; VHS- Dr. Mohamed Faisal