What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and why are they a threat?

AIS are aquatic plants and animals that are not native to Minnesota. They disrupt ecosystems, cause harm to native species, negatively impact recreational opportunities and are expensive to manage. Examples of AIS include zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and curly leaf pondweed. When an AIS invades a lake, it is almost impossible to remove.

Help Protect Minneapolis Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species!

For more information visit:
www.minneapolisparks.org/ais
Protect Minneapolis Lakes!
Make sure your boat is CLEAN, DRAINED and DRY.

**CLEAN** aquatic plants and mud from watercraft, trailers, and water related equipment before transporting to and from any water access. Look carefully and remove anything that may have attached to your boat and any area of pooled water. Carefully feel your boat’s hull for any rough or gritty spots, which may be young zebra mussels that cannot be seen.

**DRAIN** all water from your boat and equipment (including bilge and motor) and pull any plugs before leaving the water access or shoreline. You know your boat best. Please pay close attention to where water collects and make sure those areas are dry.

- Canoers and kayakers should drain their boats of all water before moving from one water body to the next.

**DRY** all areas of your boat and other items that have been in the water; including life jackets, ropes, and anchors. Boats and other water related equipment should remain dry for at least 5 days before being transported into another body of water. Even boats that spend only a few hours in the water are still at risk of picking up and transporting AIS. Boats moored or docked in infested waters run an especially high risk of having attached AIS.

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