



Fall Boat Decontamination Requirements for Watercraft Stored or Moored on the Water



PLEASE NOTE: As the boating season ends for the year, please remember your responsibility to reduce the likelihood your watercraft could contribute to the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), especially zebra mussels. Watercraft stored in the water during the boating season are more likely to have zebra mussels attached when removed from the water than day-use boats.

Please inspect your watercraft for AIS upon removing it from the water for the season.

If zebra and quagga mussels are not present: Please make sure to **clean, drain, and dry** your watercraft, as described below, before transporting and storing it for the winter.

- **Clean** - all visible organic material, including plants, animals, and mud must be removed
- **Drain** – all water by removing plugs, opening valves, running any pumps on board to expunge water, and lower motors
- **Dry** – interior compartments and bilge areas with a sponge or towel

If zebra or quagga mussels are present: It is against the law to possess or transport AIS, except for decontamination and a few other instances. It is the responsibility of the watercraft owner to decontaminate watercraft.

Decontamination is a process used to kill, destroy, or remove aquatic invasive species and other organic material that may be present in or on a watercraft and related equipment.

The following options exist for complying with decontamination regulations:

1. A hot water decontamination (140°F high pressure wash for exterior hull/120°F low pressure for internal compartments) can be used to kill and remove mussels from watercraft prior to transport away from the lake. This is an option at some lakeside marinas or if a watercraft inspection and decontamination crew is at the boat access when you remove your watercraft for the season.
2. Watercraft with AIS attached may be transported to another location for decontamination by the owner of the watercraft, an agent of an owner, or a business.
 - a. Some boat dealerships and repair shops offer a hot water pressure wash to remove zebra mussels as a part of winterization packages.
 - b. Owners can store watercraft overwinter, as part of the decontamination process, to allow mussels to freeze and dry. Dead mussels must be removed from the watercraft prior to transporting it in the spring.
3. Watercraft stored at a marina's property adjacent to an infested water or stored on the lakeshore property of a lakeshore property owner, do not need to be decontaminated before being launched into the same infested water the following spring.

If you are transporting zebra mussels or other AIS on a watercraft or associated equipment and you are not doing so as part of a decontamination process or another exemption to AIS possession or transportation regulations, you are in violation of AIS regulations.

If you are transporting your watercraft to another state, decontamination prior to transport is recommended. Not doing so may put you in violation of AIS regulations of other states.

Please visit SDleastwanted.sd.gov for more information on how to clean, dry, and dry your watercraft or contact your local Game, Fish and Parks office with any questions about end-of-season decontamination requirements.