

Pull the Plug on Aquatic Hitchhikers!

Boating, hunting, fishing, and spending time at the lake are traditions that we as Minnesotans, especially in Morrison County, are well known for. However, these traditions have recently been taken for granted, and are now at risk of changing forever. Aquatic invasive species are aggressive plants and animals with no natural predators or diseases that reproduce at an extreme rate, change the natural ecosystem in the water, and steal food and resources from native species. These invaders threaten to take over our lakes and rivers, changing the way we experience our Minnesota traditions.

Luckily, there is still time to act. The majority of lakes within Morrison County are not infested, but we still need your help to keep it this way. By taking an extra 5 minutes to inspect and clean your boat and water-related equipment, you can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species within Morrison County for generations to come!

Species in Morrison County:

Click the species for more information

- [Zebra Mussels](#)
- [Eurasian Watermilfoil](#)
- [Invasive Carp](#)
- [Faucet Snail](#)

Future Threats:

Click the species for more information

- [Starry Stonewort](#) (Stearns and Cass Counties)
- [Spiny Waterflea](#) (Mille Lacs and Crow Wing Counties)
- [Flowering-Rush](#) (Todd County)

For more information visit: <http://www.eddmaps.org/midwest/tools/infestedwaters/>

How can YOU help? Be a hero, transport zero!

Required by Law:

1. Clean	2. Drain	3. Dispose
Clean all aquatic plants, mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercrafts, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.	Drain water-related equipment such as boats, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motors, drain bilges, livewells, and baitwells by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.	Dispose of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Recommendations:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water.
- **Rinse** with hot water.
 - 120°F for at least 2 minutes, or 140°F for at least 10 seconds.
- **Dry** for at least 5 days.
- **Run motor and personal watercraft** for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.
- **Transport fish on ice.**

LEARN THE LAW: It is prohibited to...

Transport watercrafts without removing the drain plug.

- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

Water Recreation Activities that Potentially Spread AIS:

Personal Watercraft
Sailing
Scuba Diving
Waterfowl Hunting
Shore and Fly-Fishing
Seaplane Pilots
Wild Rice Harvesting