



## Cleaning, Drying and Disinfecting Boats, Kayaks and Paddle Boards



Procedures to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species - AIS

### How do I clean my boat to avoid spreading AIS?

Drying your row boat, paddle board, kayak or sail boat is the most effective way to ensure that all invasive species that may have accumulated on or in a boat are dead prior to use in a new body of water. Drying times vary according to the time of year and associated weather conditions.

The use of hot water in excess of 140° F, or steam is the most effective means of disinfecting boating and fishing equipment. While many of the invasive clam and mussel species can detect other disinfection agents and avoid them by tightly closing their shells, they cannot protect themselves from the effects of high temperature. A temperature of at least 140° must be maintained for at least 10 seconds to ensure that all AIS are destroyed. Wipe down after with a Lysol Wipe.



Although hot water pressure washers are expensive and self-serve car washes do not normally provide water hot enough for effective disinfection, household steam cleaners can usually be purchased for under \$100 and can be used to effectively disinfect boats.

They are particularly effective for live bait wells and other small confined spaces. Remember never dump bait water in lakes. Be sure to avoid decals, as the heat may remove or damage them.

However, a number of household products have proven to be effective cleaners, depending upon the AIS of concern. These include:

**Bleach:** Bleach is a very effective disinfectant agent, but it is a caustic substance that can be corrosive to aluminum and other sensitive fishing and boating equipment. Soak or spray equipment for at least one minute with a 2% bleach solution (3 ounces of household bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water).

