



CLEAN WETSUITS CLEAN WATERS



When you move from one waterway to another CHECK, CLEAN, DRY to avoid transporting unwanted aquatic hitchhikers!

 **Check:** Whenever leaving a lake or river, inspect and remove aquatic plants and animals, including mud and algae from all clothing and gear.

 **Clean:** Soak, scrub, and/or expose all clothing and gear in one of the solutions described below for at least 1 minute. *Items like wetsuits require 30-40 minutes of soaking.*

Hot water: 140°F (This can be achieved by soaking in a washing machine at the highest temperature setting.)

Salt water: 1/2 cup salt to 1 gallon of water (Thoroughly rinse after in freshwater.)

Dishwashing detergent: 5% solution (3/4 cup detergent to 1 gallon of water)

*For a more wetsuit friendly approach, use a wetsuit specific detergent or baby shampoo.

Be sure to check washing specifications for your wetsuit before trying one of these solutions.

 **Dry:** If cleaning in one of the recommended solutions is not possible, dry gear and clothing completely and then keep dry for 48 hours.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

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

The following invasive species are tiny or microscopic for all or part of their lives. They can easily cling to your wetsuit without you knowing it.

Aquatic Invaders to Look Out For:



J.E. Marsden, UVM & D. Jude

Zebra/Quagga Mussel

- Tiny, "D" or oval shaped striped shells
- Covers hard surfaces & sharp shells cut feet
- Shells attach to plants & boat bottoms



DFWI & J. Gunderson, MN Sea Grant

Spiny Waterflea

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



Tim Daley, PA DEP

Didymo (AKA Rock Snot)

- A light brown/beige algae with a rough, cottony feel
- Forms mats on river bottoms that become barriers to native invertebrates



U.S. Geological Survey

New Zealand Mud Snail

- Tiny snails (1/8 inch or 2-3 mm) with brown or black cone shaped shells;
- Reproduces rapidly and depletes trout food supply

We hope you enjoyed your swim in Lake George!
Thank you for helping us protect the lake so that we can all continue to enjoy the clean and clear water.

For more information on invasive species, or other ways you can help protect the lake, contact the Lake George Association at 518-668-3558 or info@lakegeorgeassociation.org

