

**If you cannot get to a boat washing station,
a trip to the local car wash may be a good alternative!**

If you care about the environment as much as you care about your boat and fishing, these tips are for you to prevent the introduction of harmful invasive species into new waters!

The goal of a good boat washing is to remove aquatic hitchhikers that we can and cannot see. The plant matter and dirt on our boats and trailers are easy to see. The muscles that we cannot see with the naked eye that can hide in the boat motor water, bilge, and live well also need to be addressed. If your boat and trailer is traveling between different bodies of water, it is most important to decontaminate your boat!

The first step in the decontamination process is a general boat and trailer inspection for visible plant matter and dirt. This material is easy to remove by hand and simple scrubbing.

Next, lower your propeller to check if there is water in the engine. If water comes out, the engine will need to be flushed of that water with car wash water that is a minimum temperature of 120F.

Boat trailers with felt bunks should be sprayed and soaked in 140F water to kill any invasive species hitch-hiking in the material.

Be careful to protect electronics during decontamination procedures. Using less pressure and temperature may suffice here if there is no visible plant matter or dirt present.

A car wash is a good alternative if you do not have access to a local boat washing station staffed by “Stewards”. Many car washes use water between 120F and 140F. And, the pressure from a car wash wand typically reaches 1,000 to 1,200 psi. Some truck washing station wands operate at 1,500 psi! But, be careful NOT to damage your boat with that high of pressure. If you do use a car wash for decontamination of your boat, please get a receipt if they provide one so that you have proof of your compliance efforts.

Some marinas in your local area may provide boat cleaning services. In central NY these marinas are:

-Baldwinsville: Coopers Marina, Inc. 2302 W. Genesee Rd., 315-635-7371

-Bridgeport: -Fish Bay Boats & Marina, 302 Barrett Ln, 315-633-9657

-Gagnon’s Marine Service, 548 NY-31, 315-633-0383

-Canandaigua: -German Brothers, 3907 Cty Rte. 16, 585-394-4000

-Sutters, 808 S. Main St, 585-394-0918

-Canandaigua Marine Repair, 2422 Ste. Rte. 21, 585-739-4857

-Clay: Pirates Cove Marina, 9170 Horseshoe Island Rd, 315-695-3901

-T. Skaneateles Boat Washing Station, 1411 Lacy Road

For an updated list of participating marinas, check the NYS DEC website for “Boat Washing Stations”.

Thank you for being a steward of the environment! Happy & safe boating and fishing~