

Aquatic Invasive Species- Water Equipment Storage Tips

Summer is winding down and lakeshore owners are starting to take their boats, docks, swimming rafts, etc. out of the water. Zebra mussels are now established in Big and Middle McKenzie Lakes. This initiates the continued importance of looking for aquatic invasive species. Lake Service Providers have also been provided information on what they can do to help.

The following steps should be made when taking equipment out of the water for winter storage:

1. Inspect and remove any plants, mud or other debris found on equipment. Check dock posts, underwater support bars, wheels, boats, pontoons and jet skis that have been sitting in water for a long period of time. Zebra mussels will feel like gritty sandpaper.
2. Drain all water from equipment.
3. Run water pumps and start motors out of water to flush out remaining water out of the cooling system.
4. Spray down your equipment with a bleach/water solution. One tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water and letting it air dry is recommended to help kill unseen hitchhikers.
5. If you find something suspicious, take a picture, bag it and contact Lisa Burns, Conservation Coordinator with Washburn County at 715-468-4654.



Check your dock for zebra mussels before winter storage.