

STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

Invasive species, invasive non-indigenous species and invasive non-native species, all these terms refer to species outside of their natural range due to intentional or unintentional introduction and can have a devastating impact. As well as preying on, out-competing and displacing native wildlife, they can spread disease and block waterways. Their presence can sometimes be so damaging it can lead to an adverse effect not only on biological diversity, but also to impact on society and the economy. As with all waterways when you come and visit ours from elsewhere please follow these simple instructions

As a water user, you could unknowingly help to spread invasive plants and animals from one water body to another. Animals, eggs, larvae and plant fragments are easily transported in or on equipment, shoes, clothing and other damp places and can survive for a long time. For example, new research from the Environment Agency shows that a killer shrimp can survive in the moist fold of a wader for up to 15 days. Help stop the spread by following three simple steps: check, clean and dry equipment when you leave the water.

1. Check - you're not carrying living organisms

Check your equipment and clothing for living organisms

With your equipment ...Pay particular attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect, the bow and stern of the boat, under the seats and rims, behind buoyancy bags and foot rests etc.

With your clothing check folds of cags, bouyancy aids, spraydecks, throwlines and the clothes you wear under your kit etc.

2. Clean - all equipment, clothing and shoes

Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them do not take them home and if they are notifiable then report it. Use tap water to clean your boat.

3. Dry - equipment and clothing carefully

Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. If it's a warm sunny day do leave your boat out in the sun to dry, along with your extra kit. If the sun won't help then do dry your kit with towels etc. They will need to be washed after use too.