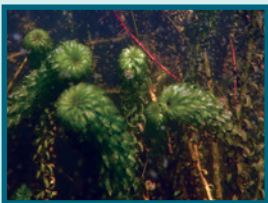


A few examples of the invasive plants and animals that could become a serious problem in our waterways:

AFRICAN CURLY WATERWEED

Freshwater plants like African curly waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*) block rivers and lakes interfering with fishing. If it spreads further in Ireland like it has elsewhere in Europe, it will cost €millions to manage.



QUAGGA MUSSEL

This tiny freshwater mussel breeds extremely fast and grows in dense colonies which can cover the underside of boats and clog propellers.



KILLER SHRIMP

The killer shrimp (*Dikerogammarus villosus*) is a voracious predator of other small animals including our native shrimp and young fish, which can significantly impact on the whole ecosystem. Its small size (3 cm max) means it could easily be hidden on damp gear or boats where it can survive for more than two weeks.



Find out more about this biosecurity campaign and how you can report sightings to help stop the spread at:

invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry

#CheckCleanDryIrl



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Photos from the Environment Agency,
Trevor Renals, Jan-Robert Baars and
David Aldridge, Cambridge University.

Calling all Boaters

Help stop the Invasion!



Invasive species block waterways and harm the environment

Don't spread them
on your boat

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

Invasive plants and animals from all over the world have been introduced accidentally to Irish waters. Many different species have already been found in our canals, lakes and other waterways, and the number of new arrivals is increasing rapidly.

They cause serious environmental problems that can be irreversible – outcompeting native wildlife, damaging ecosystems, and spreading disease. They can also block canals restricting navigation, clog propellers, and damage boats.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp boats and equipment. **Protect the environment you enjoy and remember to Check Clean Dry when you take your boat out of the water to avoid spreading invasive plants and animals.**

CHECK

Check boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, fouling, or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it on the bank or in the bin.

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to fenders, bow thrusters, props, the lip around your boat, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water (at least 45°C) if you can.

DRY

Dry - drain water from every part of your boat and trailer before leaving the site. Dry everything until dry for at least 48 hours before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for weeks in damp conditions.

Disinfect cleaned items if complete drying is not possible. Items can be soaked, thoroughly sprayed, or wiped down with a disinfectant approved for use near waterbodies (e.g. Virkon Aquatic, Virasure).

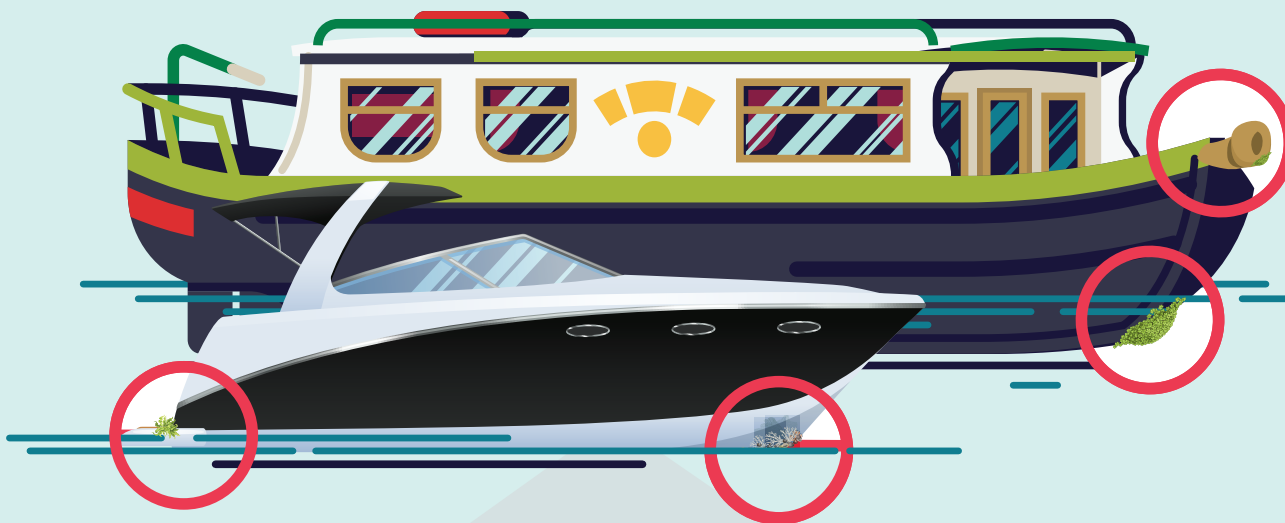
STOP THE SPREAD

While you're on the water you can reduce your risk of spreading invasive plants and animals:

- avoid patches of floating plants
- remove any plants caught on your boat or props
- if your boat has an inboard engine, clear weed filters and strainers regularly
- bag up any plant material to bin later

If you take your boat out of the water to move it somewhere new it's really important to **Check Clean Dry** to make sure you don't bring any invasive species with you.

Remember to check these places



You can download free Check Clean Dry awareness-raising materials for your club from invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry