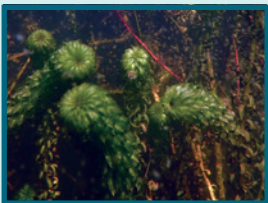


A few examples of the invasive plants and animals that could become a serious problem in our waterways:

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](https://twitter.com/CheckCleanDryIrl)



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



National
Biodiversity
Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme



Invasives.ie
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland



Waterways Ireland
Uiscebhéal na Éireann Watterweys Airlann



Waterways Association of Ireland
IWAI



Canoeing
Ireland



Foras na Mara
Marine Institute



Loughs Agency
Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna
Factóirí fúir Loughs



Kaywatch
Protecting the Environment & Safety

Photos from Mal Grey; Trevor Renals; David Aldridge, Cambridge University; and the Environment Agency.



Canoeing, kayaking or stand up paddle boarding?

Invasive species harm the
environment and block waterways

Don't spread them on your kit

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 lakes, rivers, marine environments 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 waterways, making it difficult to use them for paddling and increasing the risk of flooding.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp boats, equipment and clothing. **Protect the environment and sport you enjoy by keeping your kit free from invasive plants and animals.**

CHECK

Check boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to the inside of your boat and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water (at least 45°C) if possible.

DRY

Dry - drain every part of your boat and dry with a sponge or towel 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

It's even more important to **Check Clean Dry** if you're taking your canoe, kayak or paddle board abroad to make sure you don't bring any plants or animals back with you.

Make sure everything is clean and has been dried thoroughly before you use it again at home.

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