



Water Quality: What YOU can do to help Silver Lake. **Tips from the Silver Lake Association's Water Quality Committee**

Tip Six: Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Boats, trailers, waders and other fishing and boating equipment can spread aquatic invasive species from waterbody to waterbody unless properly cleaned, dried or disinfected after use. Although some invasive species such as water milfoil are readily visible to the human eye, many others are too small to be readily noticed. To avoid spreading invasive species please follow the guidelines in the following five steps:

1. Check

Check your boating and fishing equipment for invasive species. If your boat has been used in a water containing zebra mussels, run your hand along the hull. If it feels like sandpaper, it likely has mussels attached.

2. Clean

Clean any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment. Discard items in an upland area or in one of the invasive species disposal stations that have been installed at many boat launch sites for your convenience. Zebra mussels can be difficult to remove from a boat hull. They first need to be killed by exposure to water or steam at least 140 F and then removed by brush or pressure washer.

3. Drain

Drain all water holding compartments including live wells, bait wells and bilge areas.

4. Dry

Dry boats, trailers and all equipment before use in another waterbody. The most effective method to ensure that no invasive species or fish diseases are transported to a new body of water is to completely dry your boating and fishing equipment. The key is to make certain that equipment is COMPLETELY dry before using it in a new water body. Drying times vary significantly depending upon the type of equipment, air temperature and relative humidity. While the outside of a boat will dry relatively rapidly, bilge, live wells and other areas of a boat not reached by the sun or lacking good air circulation will take additional time to dry completely. A minimum of 5-7 days drying time in dry, warm conditions is recommended. Drying times can be estimated (<http://www.100thmeridian.org/Emersion.asp>).

5. Disinfect

Disinfect anything that came into contact with water, if it cannot be dried before reuse.

