

Aquatic Invasive Species- Water Equipment Storage Tips

Summer is winding down and soon lakeshore owners will be pulling out boats, docks, swimming rafts, water irrigation pipes out of the water. Although Zebra Mussels have not been verified in Vilas County Lakes, some of our lakes are considered borderline suitable for them.

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 and/or keep out to dry for up to five days.
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 Cathy Higley, Lake Conservation Specialist with Vilas County at 715-479-3738.



Check your dock for zebra mussels before winter storage.