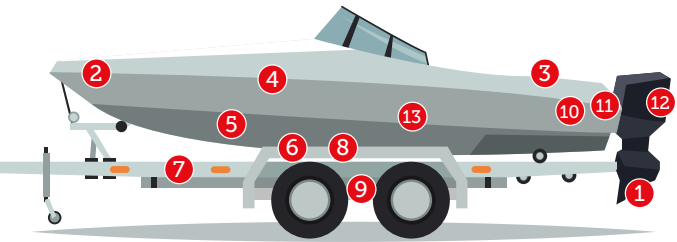




Boat Inspection CHECKLIST

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

Check it before you wreck it. That applies to your boat and our lake. Invasive mussels are sneaky. Use this checklist to go over some of their best-known hiding spots. But don't stop there because our biggest threat is tiny. Mussels could be hiding in your gear too.



Check these spots for common hiding spots for invasive species.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | Prop | <input type="radio"/> 8 | Bunks |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | Anchor | <input type="radio"/> 9 | Axel |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 | Bait Bucket | <input type="radio"/> 10 | Live Wells |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 | Dock Lines | <input type="radio"/> 11 | Bilge |
| <input type="radio"/> 5 | Hull | <input type="radio"/> 12 | Motor |
| <input type="radio"/> 6 | Rollers | <input type="radio"/> 13 | Ballast |
| <input type="radio"/> 7 | Trailer | | |

Learn more about keeping invasive mussels out of our lakes.

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OKANAGAN
waterwise

One valley. One water.

oasiss

Okanagan and Similkameen
Invasive Species Society

What are invasive mussels? And why are they such an enormous threat?

Zebra and quagga mussels originate from freshwater lakes in Russia and Ukraine. Outside their natural habitat, and with few predators, they outcompete native species, encrust and corrode hard surfaces, and cause serious harm to waters where they become established.

As far as we know, the Okanagan remains invasive-mussel free. It's up to all of us to keep it that way.

One mussel is too many.

It wouldn't take much for mussels to establish in the Okanagan. A single female zebra or quagga mussel can produce 1 MILLION EGGS a year. In warmer waters, like Lake Mead, Nev. there have been six to eight reproductive cycles a year!

How do they spread?

Invasive mussels use their byssal threads to swim and attach to watercraft, including boats, kayaks and paddleboards, hip waders, tackle boxes, life jackets – any hard surface that has spent time in infested waters. They can LIVE 30 DAYS OUT OF WATER in a damp space. At their smallest, they are the size of a grain of sand. At their largest? Around the SIZE OF YOUR THUMBNAIL (1.5 to 2 cm).

How do we stop mussels from entering our beautiful waters?

CLEAN off all plants, animals and mud from your watercraft and equipment (boots, waders, fishing gear, etc). If a power washing station is available, use it.

DRAIN (on dry land) any item that can hold water (buckets, wells, bilge and ballast).

DRY all items completely before launching into another body of water.

AND... If you have visitors who boat, fish or travel in and out of the valley with water-related gear, remind them to follow the "Clean, Drain, Dry" protocol, and to stop at all watercraft inspection stations.



Learn more & help spread the message, not the mussel.

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