

Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination Requirements for Wakeboats

Wakeboats traveling from one waterbody to another are required to follow the steps below prior to entering/launching.*

*Following this protocol is equivalent to “decontamination at an Agency-approved decontamination service provider” for the 2024 boating season.

When hot water rinsing/flushing is available:

Step 1. CLEAN: Remove any plant and animal material from the wakeboat and trailer.

- Rinse equipment, boat hulls, and trailer with high pressure, hot water at 140°F (60°C).
- Rinse interior compartments with low pressure, hot water at 120°F (49°C).
- Flush motor and fill/flush ballast tanks with hot water for 3-5 minutes at 120°F (49°C) or according to owner's manual.

Step 2. DRAIN: Remove all plugs, turn over engine(s) and drain the wakeboat thoroughly, including live wells, water boxes, baffles, bilge and ballast tanks, and other water containing compartments, to the fullest extent possible.



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When cold water rinsing/flushing is available:

Step 1. CLEAN: Remove any plant and animal material from the wakeboat and trailer. Rinse equipment, boat hulls, and trailer; rinse all interior compartments; and flush motor and ballast tanks.

Step 2. DRAIN: Remove all plugs, turn over engine(s) and drain the wakeboat thoroughly, including live wells, water boxes, baffles, bilge and ballast tanks to the fullest extent possible.

Step 3. DRY: Let the wakeboat dry for at least **five** days before launching on a different waterbody.

When rinsing/flushing is not available:

Step 1. CLEAN: Remove any plant and animal material from the wakeboat and trailer.

Step 2. DRAIN: Remove all plugs, turn over engine(s) and drain the wakeboat thoroughly, including live wells, water boxes, baffles, bilge and ballast tanks to the fullest extent possible.

Step 3. DRY: Let the wakeboat dry for at least **fourteen** days before launching on a different waterbody.

Cleaning will remove visible large-bodied organisms attached to or in watercraft or recreational equipment. Rinsing with water removes organisms, while hot water often kills them. Water at least 120°F is recommended; be sure to avoid contact with skin and check manufacturers' recommendations to ensure equipment can withstand high temperatures. If hot water is not available or may cause damage, rinsing with tap water and completely drying will help prevent spread of aquatic invasive species. Draining removes small and nearly invisible organisms such as zebra mussel larvae (veligers), which could be present in standing water within boats. Drying is necessary as many organisms can survive in standing water.



Pursuant to Vermont's Use of Public Waters
Rules § 3.8 and 10 V.S.A. § 1454

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