



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## General Prevention Procedures for Stopping Aquatic Hitchhikers: *A must read for all recreational users*

Follow a general set of procedures every time you come in contact with any body of water. By doing so, you can protect your waters from harmful aquatic hitchhikers. Because you never know where a nuisance species has been introduced, but has yet to be discovered.

There are hundreds of different harmful species ranging from plants, fish, amphibians, crustaceans, mollusks, diseases or pathogens. Some organisms are so small, you may not even realize they are hitching a ride with you. So, it is important to follow this general procedure every time you leave any body of water.

## HYDRILLA HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL!

**Please help us prevent the spread of this aggressive invasive plant!**

### Hydrilla - *Hydrilla verticillata*

**INVASIVE**

#### General description:

- Submerged, herbaceous perennial
- Slender stems, can grow up to 1" per day, up to 25'
- Can grow in shallow water –30' deep

#### Flowers/fruit:

- A single, tiny white flower, 3 translucent petals

#### Leaves:

- Whorls of 3-8, typically 5 leaflets
- Serrated edges

#### Reproduction:

- By fragmentation, buds (turions), and tubers (in sediment)
- Tubers can remain viable for up to 6+ years



**Remove all visible mud, plants, fish/animals.**

Before leaving any body of water, it is important to examine all your equipment, boats, trailers, clothing, boots, buckets etc and:

- Remove any visible plants, fish or animals.
- Remove mud and dirt since it too may contain a hitchhiker.\*
- Remove even plant fragments as they may contain a hitchhiker.\*
- Do not transport any potential hitchhiker, even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the site you visited.  
\*The larvae (immature form) of an animal can be so tiny that you cannot see it. However, it can live in mud, dirt, sand, and on plant fragments.

**Eliminate water from all equipment before transporting anywhere.**

Much of the recreational equipment used in water contains many spots where water can collect and potentially harbor these aquatic hitchhikers. Make sure that you:

- Eliminate all water from every conceivable item before you leave the area you are visiting.
- Remove water from motors, jet drives, live wells, boat hulls, scuba tanks and regulators, boots, waders, bait buckets, seaplane floats, swimming floats.
- Once water is eliminated, follow the cleaning instructions listed below.

**Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water.**

(boats, trailers, fishing equipment, dogs, boots, clothing, etc.). Basic procedures include:

- Use hot (< 40° C or 104° F) or salt water to clean your equipment.
- The following recipes are recommended for cleaning hard-to-treat equipment that cannot be exposed to hot water:
  - Dipping equipment into 100% vinegar for 20 minutes will kill harmful aquatic hitchhiker species.
  - A 1 % table salt solution for 24 hours can replace the vinegar dip. This table provides correct mixtures for the 1 % salt solution in water:

Gallons of Water	Cups of Salt
5	2/3
10	1 ¼
25	3

- Bleach: Bleach is a very effective disinfectant agent, but it is a caustic substance that can be corrosive to aluminum and other sensitive fishing and boating equipment. Soak or spray equipment for at least one minute with a 2% bleach solution (3 ounces of household bleach to 1 gallon of water).
- A 1:10 dilution of Simple Green, or full strength Formula 409, Fantastik, or other alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride-containing cleaner can be used.
- Household steam cleaners are a relatively inexpensive, yet effective disinfection option for boat owners.
- If hot water is not available, **spray** equipment such as boats, motors, trailers, anchors, decoys, floats, nets, **with high-pressure water.**
- **DRY Equipment.** If possible, allow for 5 days of drying time before entering new waters.