

A few examples of the invasive plants and animals that could become a serious problem in our waterways:

FLOATING PENNYWORT

Freshwater plants like floating pennywort can block waterways preventing paddling, and clog ponds and lakes. Floating pennywort is not yet widespread in Northern Ireland but if not stopped from spreading and controlled now, like parts of Britain and Europe, it will could cost £millions to manage.



QUAGGA MUSSEL

This tiny freshwater mussel breeds extremely fast and grows in dense colonies which can cover the underside of boats and clog propellers.



SIGNAL CRAYFISH

Signal crayfish can be carriers of the 'crayfish plague', which has been recorded in a number of rivers in the Republic of Ireland, it is fatal to our native white clawed crayfish and can be easily spread between water bodies. Signal crayfish can also weaken riverbanks impacting flood defenses, public walkways and access to waterways.



STOP THE SPREAD

Find out more about invasive plants and animals and how you can help to stop the spread at:

<http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/>



NI EA Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Photos from Mal Grey; Trevor Renals; David Aldridge, Cambridge University; GBNNSS and the Environment Agency.

Canoeing, kayaking or stand up paddle boarding?

**Invasive plants and animals
harm the environment
and block waterways
Don't spread them
on your kit**

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY



Invasive plants and animals from all over the world have been introduced accidentally to Northern Ireland waters. Over fifty different species have already been found in our lakes, rivers, and other waterways, and the number of new arrivals is increasing rapidly.

They cause serious environmental problems that can be irreversible – outcompeting native wildlife, damaging ecosystems, and spreading disease. Invasive plants also clog up waterways, making it difficult to use them for paddling, and increasing the risk of flooding.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp equipment and clothing. **Protect the environment and sport you enjoy by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals:**

CHECK

Check boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to the inside of your boat and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if you can.

DRY

Dry - drain water from every part of your boat and dry with a sponge or towel before leaving the site. Dry everything thoroughly for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

**STOP
THE
SPREAD**

It's even more important to **Check Clean Dry** if you're taking your kit abroad to make sure you don't bring any plants or animals back with you.

Make sure everything is clean and has been dried thoroughly before you use it again at home.

Remember to check these places



You can request free **Check Clean Dry** awareness-raising materials for your club from <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/>