

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 restricting navigation, and clog ponds and lakes. Floating pennywort is not yet widespread in Northern Ireland but if it spreads further, like it has in other parts of Europe, it will 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/>



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An Agency within the Department of
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Photos from the Environment Agency; GBNNSS Trevor Renals; and David Aldridge, Cambridge University."

Invasive plants and animals block waterways and harm the environment

Don't spread them on your boat

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 canals, lakes, 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. They can also block canals restricting navigation, clog propellers, and damage boats.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp boats and equipment. **Protect the environment you enjoy and remember to Check Clean Dry when you take your boat out of the water to avoid spreading invasive plants and animals.**

STOP THE SPREAD

While you're on the water you can reduce your risk of spreading invasive plants and animals:

- avoid patches of floating plants
- remove any plants caught on your boat or props
- if your boat has an inboard engine, clear weed filters and strainers regularly
- bag up any plant material to bin later

If you take your boat out of the water to move it somewhere new it's really important to **Check Clean Dry** to make sure you don't bring any invasive plants or animals with you.

CHECK

Check boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, fouling, or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it on the bank or in the bin.

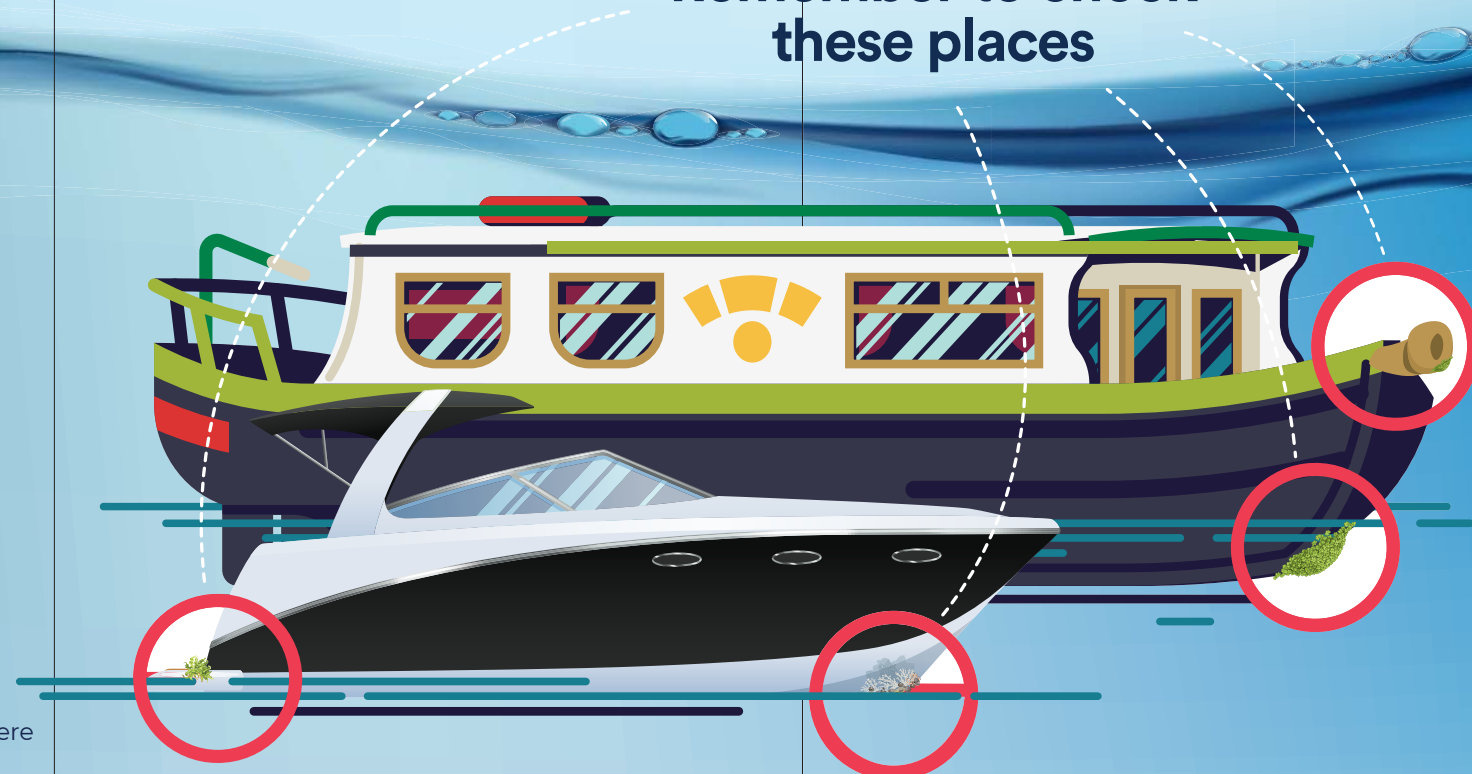
CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to fenders, props, the lip around 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 everything for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

Remember to check these places



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