

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

### WATER PRIMROSE

Freshwater plants like water primrose block waterways preventing paddling, and clog ponds and lakes. Water primrose is not yet widespread in Britain, 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.



### KILLER SHRIMP

This shrimp is a voracious predator of other small animals including our native shrimp and young fish, which can significantly impact on the whole ecosystem. Its small size (3 cm max) means it could easily be hidden in damp parts of your boat or clothing, where it can survive for over two weeks.



# STOP THE SPREAD

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

[nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)

@CheckCleanDryGB

Scan QR code on your mobile



Photos from Mal Grey; Trevor Renals; David Aldridge, Cambridge University; 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 British 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 [nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)