

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 restricting navigation, 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)

Twitter: @CheckCleanDryGB

Scan QR code on your mobile



Photos from the Environment Agency; 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 British 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

