

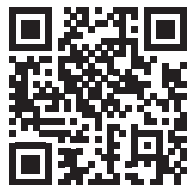
# KEEP OUR RIVERS AND LAKES FREE OF WEEDS AND PESTS

“Free” means – no snagged fishing lines, clear water for skiing and wakeboarding, no clogged filters, clean water for swimming. It also means healthy habitats and native species.



**ACT NOW TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS AND LAKES**

**SCAN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**



# PROTECT YOUR PATCH

✓ **CHECK**

✓ **CLEAN**

✓ **DRY**

For more information, talk to your regional council  
or visit [www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz).

To report a suspected find of any invasive weed or plant  
call **0800 80 99 66**.

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

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**Biosecurity New Zealand**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua

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## SNEAKY LITTLE CRITTERS

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Invasive weeds and pests invade by stealth. A nuisance algae can spread in a single drop of water, an invasive weed can establish from tiny fragments, a pest fish can spread from tiny eggs. This means you could easily take a nasty hitchhiker with you because you don't see it.

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## THE HARM THEY DO

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These nasties, depending on species, will:

- Grow and reproduce rapidly, out-competing other species
- Block dams and irrigation systems
- Take all the nutrients, light and space
- Reduce water quality
- Get caught up in fishing lines and water filters
- Form dense mats over waterways
- Have mass die-off events in the water
- Create drowning risk for people and animals.

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## WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THEM

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Once you're in the habit, it's not hard to stop these invasives spreading – it just takes a bit of dedication to the cause.

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**CHECK CLEAN DRY**  
**WHEN YOU MOVE TO PROTECT YOUR PATCH**

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## WHEN YOU MOVE, FOLLOW THESE STEPS FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN WET

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### **CHECK** for what's visible

Remove weed, mud and other matter. Drain all river or lake water.

### **CLEAN** for what's not visible

Blast your gear and craft with tap water, not into a stormwater system or drain (e.g. onto grass).

For absorbent materials use one of these treatments:

- Soak in hot tap water (50–55°C) for at least 5 minutes; OR
- Soak in 5% bleach solution (5-litre mix = 250ml bleach in 4.75 litres water) for an hour; OR
- Freeze till solid (overnight); OR
- Soak in salt solution at 100ppt\* (5-litre mix = 500g salt in 5 litres warm water) for 4 hours.

\* Parts per thousand

### **DRY** to be sure

Dry to touch, inside and out, then leave to dry for another 2 days before using again.

**WATERCRAFT:** Dry areas inside where water has pooled, and then leave the craft to dry for at least 48 hours (2 days). The outside will dry when towed.

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## THE LATEST THREAT

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The freshwater invasive clam was found in New Zealand for the first time in May 2023. It is established in a 99km stretch of the Waikato River.

The clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) is self-fertile and can reproduce rapidly, producing up to 400 juveniles a day. Due to their high reproduction rate, gold clams can quickly form large groups which can clog water pipes – such as for hydropower generation and irrigation, and potentially out-compete native species.

The early life stages are tiny – a quarter of a millimetre wide – and can spread in a single drop of untreated water. Young clams use a mucous thread to catch a current. Clams can last several days out of water.

For further information about invasive weeds and pests, search online for “New Zealand weed and pest visual guide”.

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## TIPS

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- Make **CHECK CLEAN DRY** part of your routine.
- You might want to get a square plastic bin with a lid for soaking gear made of absorbent materials.
- Be sure to check and clean hard-to-reach places, like internal compartments and bilges.
- If you only use one location, you just need to Check between visits.
- For power boats, see the *Guide for jetskis, jetboats and outboards*.

