

## General Prevention Procedures for Stopping Aquatic Hitchhikers

You can protect Foster's Pond from harmful aquatic hitchhikers. Some organisms are so small, you may not even realize they are hitching a ride with you. So, please follow these procedures before immersing anything that's been in contact with another water body.

### Remove all visible mud, plants, fish/animals.

Before leaving any body of water, it is important to examine all your equipment, boats, trailers, clothing, boots, buckets etc and:

- Remove any visible plants, fish or animals.
- Remove mud and dirt since it too may contain a hitchhiker.\*
- Remove even plant fragments as they may contain a hitchhiker.\*
- Do not transport any potential hitchhiker, even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the site you visited.

\*The larvae (immature form) of an animal can be so tiny that you cannot see it. However, it can live in mud, dirt, sand, and on plant fragments.

### Eliminate water from all equipment before transporting anywhere.

Much of the recreational equipment used in water contains many spots where water can collect and potentially harbor these aquatic hitchhikers. Thus, make sure that you:

- Eliminate all water from every conceivable item before you leave the area.
- Remove water from motors, hulls, boots, waders, bait buckets.
- Once water is eliminated, follow the cleaning instructions listed below.

### Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water.

(boats, trailers, equipment, dogs, boots, clothing, etc.). Basic procedures include:

- Use hot (< 40° C or 104° F) or salt water to clean your equipment.
- Wash your dog with water as warm as possible and brush its coat.
- The following recipes are recommended for cleaning hard-to-treat equipment that cannot be exposed to hot water:

*Dipping equipment into 100% vinegar for 20 minutes will kill harmful aquatic hitchhiker species.*

*A 1 % table salt solution for 24 hours can replace the vinegar dip. See the table in the next column for the correct mixture.*

*This table provides correct mixtures for the 1 % salt solution in water:*

Gallons of Water	Cups of Salt
5	2/3
10	1 ¼
25	3
50	6 ¼
100	12 2/3

- If hot water is not available, **spray** equipment such as boats, motors, trailers, anchors, decoys, floats, nets, **with high-pressure water.**
- **DRY Equipment.** If possible, allow for 5 days of drying time before entering new waters.

### Don't release or put plants, fish or animals into this Pond unless they came out of this Pond.

Also, don't release them into the wetlands. Many plants and animals can survive even when they appear to be dead. Here are two common examples:

**Aquarium and Aquatic Pets:** If your family gets tired of its aquarium or aquatic pets, do not release anything from the aquarium (water, plants, fish or animals) into or near Foster's Pond or any other body of water. Explain to your children how you could be hurting the Pond and killing other fish and animals that already live in the water.

If you cannot find a home for the critters in your aquarium, bury them. Dump the water into the toilet or yard, far away from storm drains.

**Bait:** Whether you have obtained bait at a store or from another body of water, do not release unused bait into the waters you are fishing. If you do not plan to use the bait in the future, dump the bait in a trashcan or on the land, far enough away from the water that it cannot impact this resource. Also, be aware of any bait regulations, because in some waters, it is illegal to use live bait.

Adapted from the *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers* web site sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
Particularly waders/boots.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)



### When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

**Foster's Pond Corporation**  
[www.fosterspond.org](http://www.fosterspond.org)