



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS PROTOCOL FOR STREAM PERMITTING VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT

All vessels and equipment* used in Montana on stream permitting work sites will follow this protocol.
January 2014

All watercraft, marine equipment and equipment used below the high water line will be decontaminated in accordance with FWP standards prior to use if moved between different bodies of water within the state, if moved into Montana from out-of-state, or if moved to different point(s) upstream within the same system.

- All sediment, vegetation, and aquatic organisms should be removed from the vessel and/or equipment prior to leaving any waterbody.
- All water should be drained from places that can hold standing water including, but not limited to, motors and bilges. Do not transfer any water from waterbody into another. Any equipment that is damaged and leaky should be repaired prior to being used.
- High pressure, hot (140°F) water can be used in place of chemicals to kill potential invaders such as aquatic invertebrates and pathogens.
- Air drying after decontamination between uses for as long as possible is also highly effective to ensure no organisms can survive, but only if the equipment has been cleaned properly before left to dry.

Aquatic invasive species are a threat to our aquatic resources. Eurasian Watermilfoil, New Zealand mud snails and zebra mussels are just a few of the destructive and aggressive invader species that threaten Montana waterways. People and equipment that come in contact with aquatic systems easily transport these exotics. Transporting invasive species is illegal in Montana and could potentially cause the quarantine of equipment and/or fines. This decontamination protocol should be followed to ensure that permitted equipment is not transferring aquatic invasive species into new sites. Particular attention should be paid to decontaminating equipment after working in areas known to be infested with an aquatic invasive species. However, all equipment should be thoroughly decontaminated before using it in a different location.

- High pressure, hot water, trailered decontamination units are available for free use through Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, please contact the Helena office at the number below.

For questions or additional information, please contact the FWP main fisheries office during regular business hours at (406) 444-2449.

*implement or machinery that has been wholly or partially immersed in surface waters, including but not limited to boat lifts, trailers transporting vessels, floating docks, pilings, dredge pipes, and buoys