

Angler's Alert - FISH

ANGLERS ALERT

Anglers are reminded that West Virginia law prohibits the release of fish or other aquatic organisms into public waters, unless a stocking permit is issued by the Division of Natural Resources. Stocking permits are not required for trout and black bass stocking provided that disease-free certifications are obtained prior to stocking, or if trout originate from a source within the state. A permit is not required for stocking native or established fish into privately owned ponds.

Moving live fish or other aquatic animals and plants from one body of water to another can cause long term damage to the ecological stability of lakes and streams and can threaten recreational fishing. Please take these precautions to prevent problems.

Please:

- do not move fish from one body of water to another
- drain live wells thoroughly before leaving an access area
- do not release live baitfish or aquarium fish into West Virginia's waters
- remove all visible plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer and nets before leaving an access area

By following these simple steps, anglers can help ensure West Virginia's good fishing for future generations. For more information visit www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Anglers_Alert.shtm.

HOW TO PROPERLY DISINFECT RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

DISINFECTION PROCEDURES

Disinfect prior to moving to another waterbody, watershed, or upstream site.

There are a number of disinfection techniques that will kill most aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens, including Didymo. Solutions of bleach or dishwashing detergent products are suggested as they provide the best combination of availability, cost AND effectiveness against Didymo as well as other aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens, such as whirling disease. Choose the appropriate agent based on the actual items requiring disinfection (i.e. bleach solutions can damage some items). It is recommended that all disinfected equipment be rinsed on dry land, away from state waters. It is preferable to drain used solutions into treated wastewater (e.g. pour down a sink drain).



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Clean all recreational equipment.
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Non-absorbent items (boats, canoes, rubber waders, 'hard-sided' objects)

- **Dishwashing Detergent:** soak and scrub for at least one minute in 5% solution (add 6.5oz of detergent with water to make one gallon). 'Green' products are less effective and not recommended for disinfecting.
- **Bleach:** soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in 2% household bleach (2.5oz with water added to make one gallon). Bleach solutions must be replaced daily to remain effective.
- **Hot Water:** soak for at least one minute in very hot water (above 140°F – hotter than most tap water) OR for at least 20 minutes in hot water kept above 120°F (hot tap water, uncomfortable to touch).
- **Drying:** Drying will kill Didymo, but slightly moist environments will support some organisms for months. This approach should only be used for gear that can be left in the sun for extended periods of time (i.e. a canoe that's left in the yard for several days between uses).
- **Freeze:** Place item in freezer until solid.

Absorbent items require longer soaking times to allow thorough penetration into the materials. Felt-soled waders, for example, are difficult and take time to properly disinfect. Other absorbent items include clothing, wetsuits, sandals with fabric straps, or anything else that takes time to dry out. The thicker and denser a material, the longer it will require for adequate disinfection. Err on the side of caution. **Bleach solutions are not recommended for absorbent materials.**

- **Hot Water:** Soak items for at least 40 minutes in very hot water kept above 140°F (hotter than most tap water).
- **Dishwashing Detergent and hot water:** ('Green' products are less effective and not recommended for disinfecting): soak for 30 minutes in a hot 5% detergent/water solution kept above 120°F.

A simple, portable DISINFECTION KIT might include:

- Large trash can and/or medium sized Rubbermaid-type bin for soaking wading boots
- Large stiff bristle brush for scrubbing
- Spray bottle(s) or herbicidal pump spray can(s)
- Graduated cylinder or measuring cup
- 5% detergent solution and/or 2% bleach Solution