

# Why are we so concerned about cleaning boats?

We, at Sunset Lake, value our water quality and are very concerned about preventing contamination of our lake by aquatic invasive species, such as variable watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*); Eurasian watermilfoil (*M. spicatum*); and fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). In Sunset Lake, these invasive species have no natural predators to keep their populations in check. As a result, these species can outcompete beneficial native species, reduce biodiversity, hamper recreational uses, diminish aesthetic values, decrease water quality, and reduce real estate values.

These species grow very rapidly and reproduce by fragmentation. Since the plants can break apart very easily due to wave action produced by boats, the introduction of even one single fragment of any of these plants can result in the infestation of the entire lake. Once introduced into a lake, these plants are extremely difficult to eradicate, often forming dense mats making swimming and boating difficult. When the dense mats decay, the available oxygen in the water may be depleted. The resulting low oxygen conditions can lead to fish kills and harm other beneficial native aquatic organisms.

***Let's face it. WHO wants THIS stuff to take over our lake? We need to do EVERYTHING that we possibly can to prevent this!!***



# Boat Decontamination Instructions

All guest boaters at Sunset Lake MUST fill out this “Launch your watercraft Clean Boat Certification” Form before launching their boat

1. Clean and decontaminate your boat using one of the methods listed below.
2. Sign and Date a New Line Below for Each Visit.
3. Place this Side of the Certificate Facing Up on the Dashboard of your Tow Vehicle.

## Decontamination Methods (*choose Method A or B*)

### ***Method A: Clean, Drain and Dry Your Watercraft***

Step 1: CLEAN all visible plants, mud, or other debris

Step 2: DRAIN all water (bilge, livewells, motor)

Step 3: DRY (1 week during July and August, 2 weeks in June and September, and 4 weeks before and after these dates.)

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### ***Method B: Clean, Drain and Wash Your Watercraft***

Step 1: CLEAN all visible plants, mud, or other debris

Step 2: DRAIN all water (bilge, livewells, motor)

Step 3: WASH your boat's hull, trailer, equipment, and any other exposed surfaces, and the inside of your bilge area, livewell, and engine cooling system with one of the following:

- Steam or Scalding Hot Wash (>140 degrees) OR
- Chlorine/bleach Solution (1 oz. per gal. water) OR
- Lysol (as sold or mix to 1% solution) OR
- Vinegar (as sold)

