

Once an aquatic invasive species (AIS) is established, it is either very costly or nearly impossible to eradicate the invader. Prevention is the best way to protect our waters.

Why should I decontaminate?

The traditional prevention guidance, **Inspect, Remove, Drain, Never Move**, is an effective and required method for reducing risk. However, even when you remove vegetation and drain the water from your boat and trailer, you could still transport AIS, especially zebra mussel veligers and spiny waterfleas. Although not required, watercraft decontamination is the safest option. **It's up to you** to help you stop aquatic hitchhikers.

What is watercraft decontamination?

Watercraft decontamination kills and removes parts of organisms (e.g., plant fragments, eggs) from the watercraft and trailer. Decontamination involves additional actions after removing vegetation and draining water that reduce your risk of transporting AIS.

What are my decontamination options?

- Air dry for +6 days
- Bleach or vinegar spray (2% bleach)
- High pressure wash (hot if possible)
- Decontamination unit

Decontamination options

OPTION	ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Drying	Little effort, free	6+ days needed for decontamination
Chemical Solution (Bleach, vinegar)	Quick, inexpensive, self-application	Not as effective as a decontamination unit or drying
High Pressure Wash (hot if possible)	No chemicals, quicker than decontamination unit, self-application	Not as effective as a decontamination unit or drying
Decontamination Unit	Complete decontamination in 20-30 min	Trained operator needed, cost, time Units are not readily available in Wisconsin

WISCU-G-12-003

For more information on decontamination protocols visit:
seagrant.wisc.edu
protectyourwaters.net
[facebook.com/tourneyais](https://www.facebook.com/tourneyais)



Frequent lakehopper?

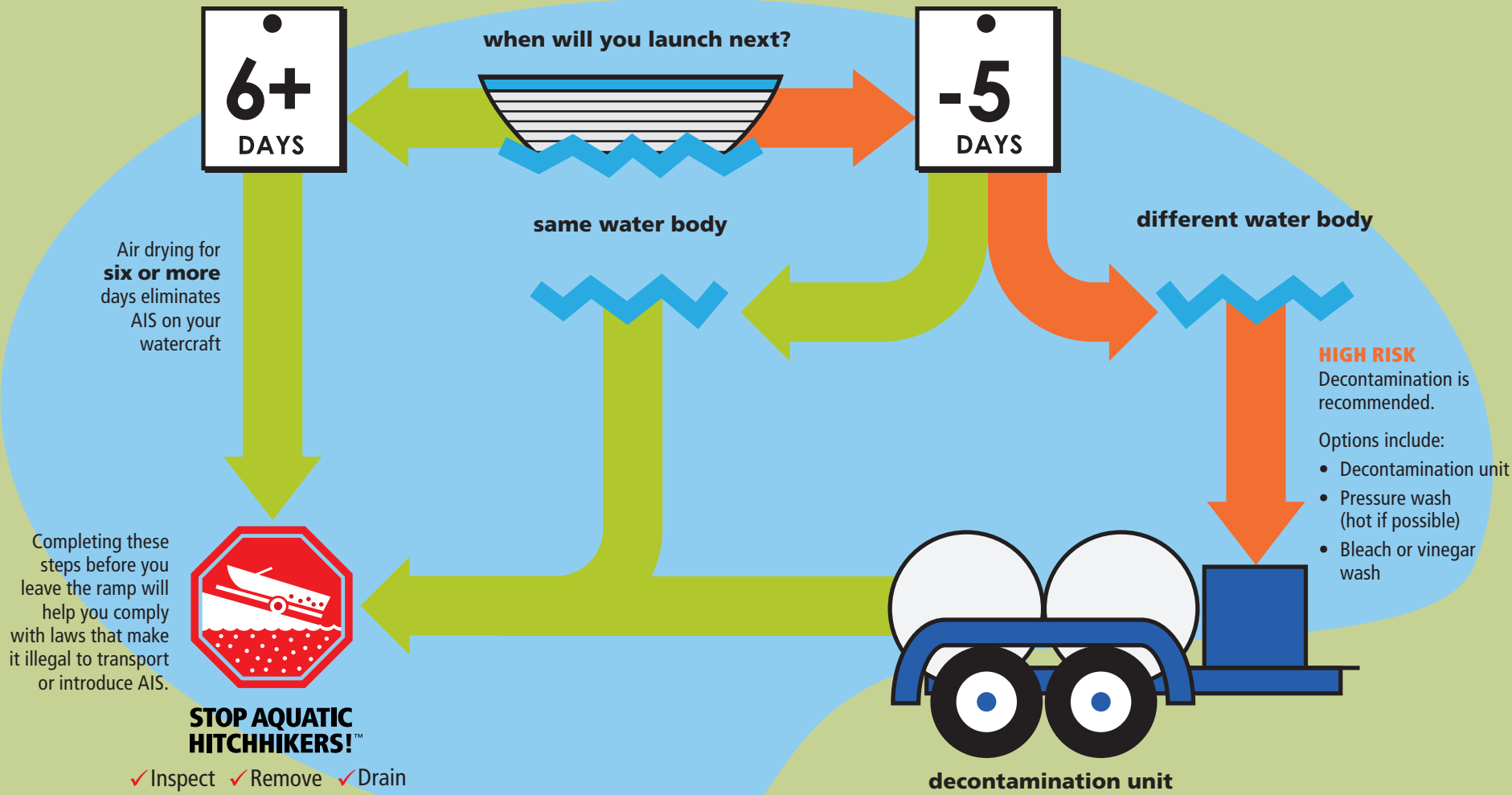
It's up to YOU

to protect our waters,



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

IT'S THE LAW! BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE BOAT RAMP **ALWAYS** INSPECT, REMOVE, DRAIN.
CONSIDER TAKING EXTRA STEPS TO DECONTAMINATE, ESPECIALLY WHEN LEAVING WATER BODIES WITH INVASIVE SPECIES.



**YOU'VE REDUCED
THE RISK OF
MOVING AIS!**

A watercraft decontamination unit is a pressure washer with specialized attachments that treat the exterior and interior portions (bilge, livewell) of the boat with hot (140 F) water. The process takes 20-40 minutes.