

Look Before You Leave!

Invasive Species may be joining you on vacation.

When you load up for the cottage or camping trip, you could unknowingly be carrying stowaways (invasive species). An invasive species is a plant or animal that has been introduced to an area outside its normal geographic range and threatens the health of our natural areas by outcompeting native species for food and habitat.

- 1. Bikes:** Mud can carry seeds of invasive plants such as garlic mustard and dog-strangling vine.
Clean bikes before moving them to new locations.
- 2. Pets:** Invasive seeds can be carried in fur and mud on pets. *Remove seeds and mud from your pets.*
- 3. Firewood:** Invasive insects like the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorned beetle can be carried in firewood. *Buy wood locally.*
- 4. ATVs:** Mud on ATVs and trail equipment can harbour invasive plant seeds.
Clean ATV's before transport.
- 5. Boots:** Muddy boots can carry seeds and insects.
Clean your boots before going to a new location.
- 6. Garden Plants:** Some ornamental plants may be invasive. Soil can carry seeds of invasive plants, exotic earthworms, or European fire ants.
Look for and use non-invasive plants.
- 7. Bait:** Bait should not include exotic round gobys or rusty crayfish, and bait buckets should be drained on land. *Don't dump your bait.*
- 8. Watercraft:** Boats and other watercraft can carry invasive plants, zebra mussels and earwigs.
Inspect, clean and drain your boat before moving to a new water body.
- 9. Patio Furniture:** Lawn chairs and patio furniture can harbour invasive insects such as European earwigs or the seeds of invasive plants.
Clean your furniture before transporting it.

Clean equipment before transport
Plant non-invasive plants
Groom your pet after hiking
Don't dump your bait
Buy wood locally
Inspect, clean and drain your boat