

Help stop the spread of Didymo and New Zealand Mudsnails



CLEAN

boats and gear with **HOT (140° F)** water or chemical disinfectants and remove any visible plants, mud and aquatic life before transporting.

DRAIN

the water from all equipment and watercraft before transporting elsewhere.

DRY

all gear for at least five days before going to a new water body.

These methods work for didymo, New Zealand mudsnails and most other aquatic invasive species.

Helpful Tips:

- Avoid visiting multiple rivers in a single day.
- Plan time to decontaminate between trips.
- Designate specific gear, especially porous items like rope and nets, for use only in infested waters.



The problem

Didymo - nuisance algae

- Didymo (aka "rock snot"), a microscopic alga (diatom), produces stalks that can form thick mats that cover river and stream beds.
- These mats alter habitat and food sources for fish and can foul fishing gear and impact fishing access and wading.
- Didymo looks and feels like white or brown wet wool – it is not slimy.
- Infestations range from cotton ball-sized patches to thick blankets and long, rope-like strings that flow in currents.

Invasive New Zealand mudsnail

- The brown-to-black, 1/8-inch long New Zealand mudsnail reproduces cloning - a single snail can start an entire population.
- With few natural predators, their numbers grow rapidly each year, decreasing food for other invertebrate populations.
- Fish that feed on native invertebrates like mayflies and caddisflies may find it more difficult to forage.
- Fish will consume New Zealand mudsnails, but they offer the fish little nutritional value, are difficult for fish to digest and can be excreted alive.
- Feeding on mudsnails can reduce the growth, condition and ultimately the abundance of key sport fish including trout.

Take extra steps to decontaminate

- Clean all surfaces that can transport didymo and New Zealand mudsnail, including boats, anchors and fishing gear such as waders, wading boots and nets.
- Didymo's microscopic cells and New Zealand mudsnails can survive without water for days. Thorough drying (five or more days) or rinsing with hot water or a chemical disinfectant is necessary to assure no live organisms are transported.
- Because porous items don't fully dry and may not be disinfected by chemical washes, avoid using rope, netting, felt-soled wading boots or other porous materials when possible, or restrict use of these items to a single stream or river.

**For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://www.michigan.gov/Invasives).
To report new locations of didymo or New Zealand mudsnail, email photos and location information to
EGLE-WRD-AIP@Michigan.gov.**