

ANS Tips for Boats with Ballast Tanks



What's the Big Deal about Ballast Tanks?

Some wakeboard boats, ski boats and sailboats have ballast tanks which are filled with water to stabilize the boat and allow them to ride lower in the water. **Many ballast tanks can't be visually checked, and many cannot be fully drained.** Even after these tanks have been pumped out, they can contain up to two gallons of water. Even a few gallons of water from another reservoir could contain thousands to millions of microscopic zebra or quagga mussel larvae or other Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)! The more water that is transported in the bottom of ballast tanks, the higher the risk is of introducing zebra or quagga mussels to your favorite lake. Because of the high costs and damage caused to boats, fish, dams and water facilities by mussels we don't want that to happen.



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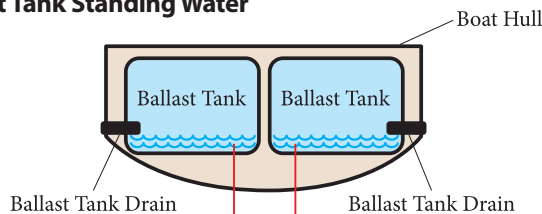
What Can I Do to Make My Ballast Tanks Safer?

If the inspector finds water in a ballast tank or can't verify how much water remains in the tanks, the tanks may require decontamination. Boats with more than two ballast tanks will require decontamination. The only tool we currently have to decontaminate enclosed ballast tanks is to flush them out with very hot water that will kill any mussels present. The problem is that there are numerous models of boats with ballast tanks. Some require extremely sophisticated and technical processes to get the hot water in all the necessary places. Wakeboard boats are particularly technical, difficult, and time consuming to decontaminate. Also, some wakeboard boats may have ballast tank pumps which are only rated for 130°F water. The standard for killing zebra mussels is 140 to 170°F, which is hotter than these pumps can tolerate. **Boats with these lower-temperature rated pumps will be difficult to decontaminate and decontaminations may need to be performed by a certified dealer.**



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Ballast Tank Standing Water



Standing water left in the ballast tank after draining.
This water can harbor microscopic live zebra mussel young.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the state agency responsible for protecting and managing wildlife and its habitat, as well as providing wildlife-related recreation. The Division is funded by hunting and fishing license fees, federal grants and Colorado Lottery proceeds through Great Outdoors Colorado. 4/2011 - 30,000



Keeping Colorado Wild

What are My Options for Decontamination?

If any ANS is found on a boat during inspection, the inspection staff cannot permit the boat to leave and will perform the decontamination on site.

If no ANS is found there are two options available:

- Have the inspection staff decontaminate the boat for you.
- Take your boat to marine dealer that is certified in ANS inspections. This is not as convenient, but is likely the best course of action for wakeboard and other technically difficult boats. There may be a charge by the dealers who provide this service, but they have marine service specialists who know these boats very well. After the boat is decontaminated, they can apply a green seal between the boat and trailer to document that it was decontaminated properly. When returning to the lake, the boat inspector will check to verify that the seal and receipt are valid, and allow the boat to launch.

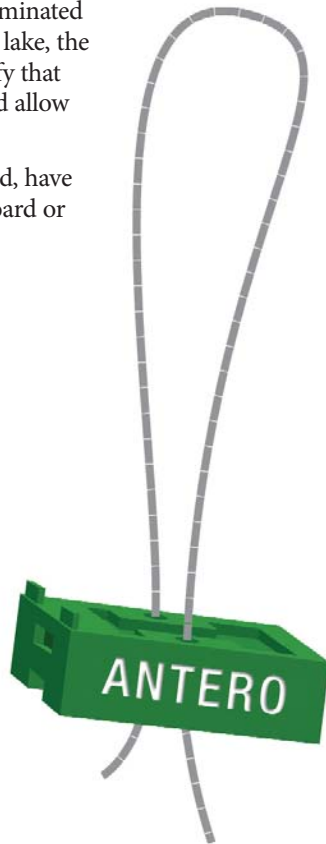
The following locations are certified, have green seals and can handle wakeboard or other technical boats:

Best Marine Service
12098 W. 50th Place,
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
(303) 423-3311

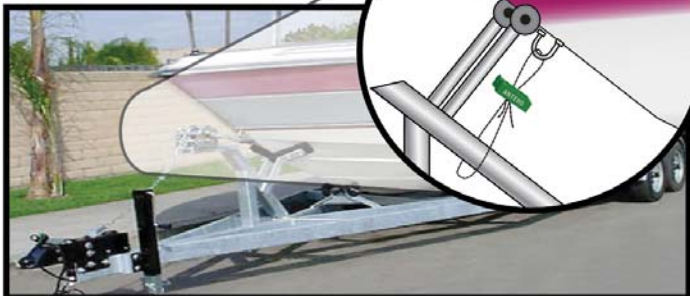
Nelson Motor Sports
5800 N. Federal
Denver, CO 80221
(303) 468-1369

Rocky Mountain Boat Co.
290 S. McCulloch Blvd.
Pueblo West, CO 81007
(719) 547-3100

Tommy's Slalom Shop
3740 N. Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80231
(303) 455-3091



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Tips for Speedy and Convenient Inspections and Decontaminations

We are continually working on ways to improve the inspection and decontamination process and we recommend these options:

- Replace any pumps rated to only 130°F with pumps rated to 180°F. The higher-heat rated pump will make it easier and less risky to get your boat decontaminated at an inspection station. Keep your receipt for the pump and your owner's manual on board to help inspectors at the next location.
- Get an inspection seal! Every time you boat or get your boat serviced, request a green seal when leaving the water.
- Schedule inspections and decontaminations on a weekday. You can get on the water faster by having a green seal prior to entering the water. If you are likely to need a decontamination, getting pre-inspected and decontaminated on a weekday may be more convenient.
- Stop by the Colorado Division of Wildlife office in Denver or Grand Junction Monday through Friday for a free professional ANS inspection or decontamination. Check the website for hours of operation or call (303) 291-7295 for more information.

You Can Make a Difference!

You can help stop the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) in Colorado and the West! Before entering and when leaving any waters always:

Clean: Remove all plants, animals and mud. Thoroughly wash everything: boats, trailers, vehicle hitches and motors. Aquatic plant fragments and animals can hide in mud and survive many days out of water. Be sure to clean all fishing equipment including waders and boots.

Drain: Completely drain every space or item that could hold water, including live wells, bait containers, ballast and bilge tanks, and engine cooling systems. Remove plugs, drop motor, and use sponges and/or towels to absorb all water from bilges, live wells, ballast tanks and motors.

Dry: Allow sufficient time for boats and equipment to dry completely before launching in other waters.

Dispose: Properly dispose unused live bait into trash containers, not into the water. Properly dispose of aquarium or classroom animals or plants, do not place them in any body of water or natural setting.

For more information call the Colorado Division of Wildlife at (303) 291-7295.

Please Clean, Drain, and Dry your boat to keep boating open in Colorado.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!