

# Scuba Divers Can Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers



## You Can Make a Difference!

Divers can unintentionally spread freshwater aquatic nuisance species (ANS) such as the zebra or quagga mussel, New Zealand Mudsnail (NZMS), Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water flea, or Asian clam from one body of water to another on their scuba diving gear. Some ANS larvae are invisible to the naked eye and can survive hours to weeks on wet scuba gear or in water inside equipment. By adhering to the following guidelines, you can help prevent the spread of ANS when you scuba dive.



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

### Before diving AND before leaving:

- ✓ **REMOVE** aquatic plants, mud, and animals from all dive gear including wetsuit/drysuit, mask, snorkel, boots, gloves, hood, tank, buoyancy compensator (BC), and regulators.
- ✓ **DRAIN** water from BC, regulators, boots, gloves, snorkel, mask, and any other equipment that may hold water.

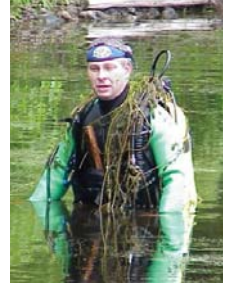
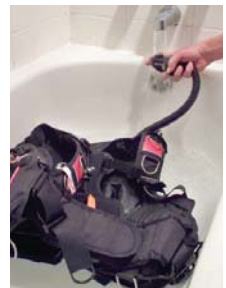


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### After diving:

- ✓ **RINSE** the inside of your BC with hot water (at least 40°C/104°F but no more than 49°C/120°F) or salted water (½ cup of salt dissolved per one gallon of water). Immediately follow a salted wash with a freshwater rinse. Lastly, submerge and wash your suit and other equipment using appropriate cleaning solutions.
- ✓ **DRY** your suit and all equipment completely for **at least** 24 hours before diving in a different water.



**Have Fun Diving and Thanks  
for Protecting Our Waters!**



For more information contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife:  
[www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us) • [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)  
 (303) 291-7295 • (303) 297-1192



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE  
 6060 Broadway • Denver, CO 80216  
 (303) 291-7295 • (303) 297-1192  
[www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us) • [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)