

# 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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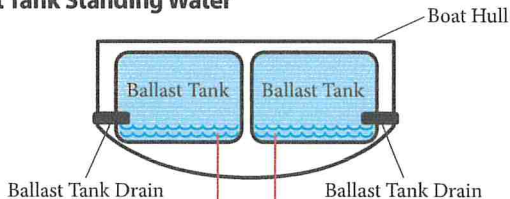
## What Can I Do to Make My Ballast Tanks Safer?

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



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