

THE LARGER PICTURE: PREVENTING ALL INVASIVES

Invasive species are a threat to a lake and its ecosystem because they are not native to the area. Their introduction to a lake, such as Candlewood, often means that because the local environment doesn't have natural predators to control the reproduction and spread of this nonnative species, they can quickly over-run an ecosystem and out-compete the native species. We've been battling invasive Eurasian watermilfoil for decades, please help prevent the introduction of new invasive plant and animal species into Candlewood Lake.



GET INVOLVED REPORT SIGHTINGS

If you believe you have spotted zebra mussels in Candlewood Lake, contact the Candlewood Lake Authority.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the effort against the spread of zebra mussels, please contact the Candlewood Lake Authority at 860-354-6928.

If you witness boaters knowingly launching zebra mussel infected boats in Candlewood Lake, please contact DEP Dispatch at (860) 424-3333.



LAKE AUTHORITY

*Dedicated to Public Safety & Preserving
and Protecting Candlewood Lake*

Mission Statement

The Candlewood Lake Authority provides lake, shoreline and watershed management to foster the preservation and enhancement of recreational, economic, scenic, public safety and environmental values of the Lake for the City of Danbury and the Towns of Brookfield, New Fairfield, New Milford and Sherman in cooperation with the State of Connecticut and Northeast Utilities.

Candlewood Lake Authority

PO Box 37 Sherman, CT 06784

Ph: 860-354-6928 Fax: 860-350-5611

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www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org

Zebra Mussel Alert!

HAS YOUR BOAT BEEN ON ANOTHER LAKE?

Important Steps To Prevent Zebra Mussels From Infecting Candlewood Lake

*Brought to you by the
Candlewood Lake Authority*

THE DANGER



Photo: National Science Foundation

♦ Boat, Property & Environmental Damage:

In the right conditions, zebra mussels have the ability to rapidly reproduce and do extensive damage to a lake's ecosystem, property on a lake and to a boat engine's cooling system.

♦ **Sharp Shells:** Adult zebra mussels have very sharp shell edges and may blanket solid surfaces including docks, rocks on the lake bed and boat hulls.

♦ Unknowingly Transported by Boaters:

Most lakes become infected with zebra mussels because humans bring boats from infected waters, to uninfected waters.

♦ Here Today, Here Tomorrow:

There is no known effective method to completely eliminate zebra mussels if Candlewood becomes infected.



Photo: zebra mussels on a native mussel, courtesy Biodrawversity

WE MUST PROTECT CANDLEWOOD LAKE

If you have been to an infested body of water (listed below) PLEASE follow these critical decontamination procedures.

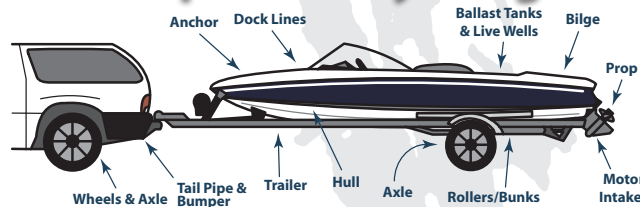
1) **CLEAN** all visible plant, fish and animals as well as mud or other debris from your trailer, tow vehicle and boat before leaving any lake's boat launch.

2) **DRAIN** all water from every space and item that may hold water including bilges, ballast tanks, live wells, engine cooling systems, etc. away from any waterway.

3) **DRY** all equipment for at least one week (hot/dry weather) and four weeks (cool/wet weather) before entering Candlewood.

** If proper drying is not possible, wash with **hot water** (preferably high pressure) or soak in 1% salt solution for 24 hrs (2/3 cup salt per 5 gal. water) or 100% vinegar for 20 minutes.*

**Before Leaving & Before Launching...
Inspect Everything!**



For more info visit www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org

**Candlewood Boaters Who Are Unable To
Follow These Procedures Should Avoid Infested Waters**

Nearby Known Zebra Mussel Infested Waters

Connecticut: Lake Lillinonah • Lake Zoar • East Twin Lake • West Twin Lake

New York: Hudson River • Finger Lakes • Lake George • Lake Champlain • Mohawk River

Massachusetts: Laurel Lake **Vermont:** Ballston Lake • Lake Bomoseen **Pennsylvania:** Susquehanna River

IDENTIFICATION



Photo: adult zebra mussel (not to scale), courtesy Biodrawversity

As Young

- ♦ Too small to see with the naked eye.
- ♦ Float freely in the water column.
- ♦ Easily and often unknowingly transported by humans.

As Adults

- ♦ Characterized by "zebra striping" on their shells.
- ♦ Attach to any solid surface (including boats or aquatic plants) starting when as small as a grain of sand.
- ♦ Fully grown, may be the size of your fingernail.



Photo: adult zebra mussels next to a dime, courtesy CA Dept. Fish and Game