



INVASIVE SPECIES GEAR WASH PROTOCOL

Please read and follow all of the step-by-step procedure.

To help protect our waters from potential threats, please take 25 minutes to prepare your gear and equipment for your trip to Spring Lake. When you receive your confirmation email treat both your gear and equipment, and give it plenty of time to dry. By washing at home you will save time and avoid using wet gear and equipment. You will also avoid the transporting and spreading of aquatic nonnative and invasive species to Spring Lake. This simple procedure will not only extend the life of costly equipment but help protect the aquatic habitats we enjoy.

Underwater housings, dry suits, cylinders, manifolds, regulators, and any other specialty equipment that cannot or should not be submerged in a vinegar solution should be cleaned to manufacturer's specifications with an appropriate cleanser, thoroughly rinsed, and dried prior to use in Spring Lake. All gear and equipment should be submerged in a vinegar solution for 20 minutes.

Gear that has been used exclusively in Spring Lake, a chlorinated pool, or a salt water environment does not require decontamination prior to access at this time.

- 1. Visually inspect all equipment (not limited to diving equipment) for plant, animal, or foreign material of any kind and remove. Remember to check pockets, folds, tread of shoes and booties, hulls, fishing gear, bait buckets, etc.**
- 2. Create a solution of 20% vinegar and 80% water in a sizable container.**
- 3. Submerge gear in vinegar solution for 20 minutes. Use a weight belt to hold down buoyant gear. Be sure to get solution inside your BCD by opening dump valves while submerged in the solution.**
- 4. After soaking your gear and equipment for 20 minutes, remove from solution and rinse thoroughly with fresh water.**
- 5. Hang gear and equipment and allow it to fully air dry.**

Thanks for your cooperation,

TEXAS
STATE **AQUARENA**