



Spring Lake Gear Wash Procedures

Compliance with this procedure is mandatory to dive in Spring Lake

To help protect our waters from potential threats, please take 25 minutes to prepare your equipment for your trip to Spring Lake. This will prevent the introduction of potentially harmful invasive species to Spring Lake. By washing at home you will save time and avoid donning wet gear on your dive day. 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.

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

1. Visually inspect all equipment for plant, animal, or foreign material of any kind. Remember to check pockets, folds, and tread of shoes and booties.
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 for 20 minutes, remove gear from solution and rinse thoroughly with fresh water.
5. Hang gear and allow it to fully air dry.

We depend on ALL DIVERS to follow these protocols to ensure the health of the Spring Lake aquatic system and the longevity of SCUBA diving activities in this delicate environment. Failure to follow these protocols may result in damage to the environment and the termination of all recreational diving instruction by outside entities in Spring Lake.

What are invasive species?

(for more information please visit: <http://www.texasinvasives.org>)

An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. (Executive Order 13112).

An invasive species grows/reproduces and spreads rapidly, establishes over large areas, and persists. Species that become invasive succeed due to favorable environmental conditions and lack of natural predators, competitors and diseases that normally regulate their populations.

This includes a wide variety of plants, insects and animals from exotic places. As invasive species spread and take over ecosystems, they decrease biodiversity by threatening the survival of native plants and animals. In fact, invasive species are a significant threat to almost half of the native U.S. species currently listed as federally endangered.

In addition to negatively impacting ecosystems, invasive species are also costly. It is very expensive to prevent, monitor and control the spread of invasives, not to mention the damage to crops, fisheries, forests, and other resources. **Invasives cost the US \$137 billion annually. Some of the most harmful species cost in excess of \$100 million annually.**