
Vehicles & Storage Unit Checklist

Cleaning and checking your vehicle and storage unit *before* the move is important to prevent an invasive species from moving with you. Please review our general guidelines for checking vehicles, then find and follow the steps for the vehicle that is most similar to yours.

If you have *already* moved, please still check for invasive species. If you find potential evidence of an invasive species, please report it to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program at 1-800-525-0137.

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General Guidelines

- A good place to start is by checking the vehicle's exterior, paying close attention to the underside and any fender areas on the vehicle.

When cleaning exterior surfaces, you can use a hose or compressed air. A stiff brush me also be used, however rinsing with water or compressed air is generally needed afterwards.

- **What to look for:**
 - Eggmasses
 - Soil
 - Plant material
 - Pupal cases
 - Fungal Spores
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- In addition to doing your own checks and cleaning, you should take your vehicle through a carwash with an undercarriage flush if possible.
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Cars & Trucks

- Begin by checking the exterior, paying close attention to the underside and fender areas of the vehicle.
Use a hose or compressed air to clean the exterior.



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- Open the hood of the vehicle and check the area. Remove any visible foreign material that is safely accessible.



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- **Important areas to check:**
 - Radiator/grill area
 - Engine bay
 - Floor mats
 - Gas & brake pedals
 - Seats
 - Chassis
 - Tires
 - Wheel arches
 - Wheel guards
 - The underside of the vehicle.
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Motorcycles, ATVs, & Snowmobiles

- Begin with an inspection of the wheels and fender areas, along with foot placement areas.
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- Use a hose or compressed air to clean the exterior of the vehicle's trailer (Or any trailer generally used for transporting the vehicle).
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- Make sure to remove foreign material from the tire tread (or the track for snowmobiles).
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Boats & Boat Trailers

- **CLEAN**
Inspect the outer hull and interior of your boat. Remove

any visible plant, plant fragments, and mud or other debris. Any form of foreign material on your boat will often contain additional organisms that can be invasive species.

Check your boat's trailer, including the axle, its wheels and wheel areas. Additionally, check your boat's anchor, props and jet engines, ropes, boat bumpers, and any paddles.

As a rule of thumb, clean any parts of your boat that contact the water. Effective cleaning methods include brushing, vacuuming, adhesive rollers, pressure washing, hot water washing, and general washing.

- **DRAIN**

Drain every space, item, crevasse, or compartment that could possibly hold water. Follow the factory guidelines for eliminating water from engines.

Drain the bilges of your boat by removing the drain plug. Remember that a boat's bilge pumps are not able to remove all the water from the boat's hull.

Drain live-wells, ballast tanks, bilge, and transom wells.

- **DRY**

Allow your entire boat to completely dry before moving. Generally, this takes five days in warm, dry weather and up to 30 days in cool, moist weather. Calculate your local dry time at: <http://www.100thmeridian.org/Emersion.asp>

If you do not have time to dry your boat, use a chemical spray. You can use a 2% bleach solution, Formula 409®, or Fantastic® (check that the spray contains quaternary ammonium). Be aware that these chemicals could damage boat equipment. Before disposing of chemicals, contact a local chemical waste management facility, or the EPA.

RVs, & Campers

- Begin by cleaning off any extendable awnings or mats by the door of your RV/camper.

Sweep out the interior with a broom to remove any foreign material, including dirt and debris.

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- Use a hose or compressed air on the entire exterior to remove any foreign material, including dirt or debris.

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- **Important areas to check:**
 - Extendable awnings
 - Interior furniture
 - Floor mats/carpeting
 - Radiator/grill area
 - Engine bay
 - Gas & brake pedals
 - Seats
 - Chassis
 - Tires
 - Wheel arches
 - Wheel guards
 - The underside of the vehicle.
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Storage Units

- Checking your belongings that go into or come out of a storage unit is important to ensure there are *no* invasive species present *before* you move.

Remove any foreign material, including dirt and debris, from these items to ensure there are *no* invasive species present.

The photo included here shows gypsy moth egg masses on the underside of a picnic table. (*U.S. Forest Service*).



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- Check the exterior, paying close attention to the base of the storage unit, around the doorframe, and other areas with crevices.

Remove any foreign material, including dirt and debris, with a stiff brush or similar cleaning implement.

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- Use a hose to spray the entire exterior of the storage unit *before* it is transported to a new location.

Some moving companies will check for invasive species before transporting storage units, however it is always best to also check for yourself (especially because they will not check the items that you put into the storage unit).
