



## **Moss Ball Disposal and Aquarium Decontamination Protocols to Mitigate Zebra Mussel Contamination Risk**

If you purchased a moss ball within the last year from any source please follow these protocols for decontamination and/or disposal of moss balls and associated aquarium items

### **Moss Ball**

- a. Place moss ball in a ziplock bag and freeze for a minimum of 48 hours
- b. After 48 hours, discard moss ball and bag in trash

### **Aquarium Water**

- a. Drain aquarium water to an outdoor location away from water bodies and storm drains (do not drain into indoor or outdoor drains including storm drains!)

### **Aquarium Decorations and other items (plants, ceramics, plastic tubes, etc.)**

- a. Place items in freezer and freeze for a minimum of 48 hours
- b. After 48 hours, thoroughly dry, brush off any attached material and discard material in trash

### **Aquarium Gravel**

- a. Place gravel in heat safe container; fill container with tap water and bring to a boil
- b. Boil gravel and water for a minimum of 1 minute
- c. Allow gravel to cool and thoroughly dry, brush off any attached material and discard material in trash
- d. Discard water outdoors away from storm drains, ponds, or other water bodies

### **Aquarium Tank**

- a. Remove fish or other animals
- b. Remove and discard all filter media, bio bags, etc
- c. Heat tap water to a minimum of 140 degrees and pour into aquarium; be sure to coat sides of the aquarium. A cover can be placed on aquarium to retain heat
- d. Allow heated water to remain in aquarium for a minimum of 1 minute. Longer is better!
- e. Discard water outdoors away from storm drains, ponds, or other water bodies
- f. Rebuild aquarium and refill with new water. Please do not reuse water used to retain fish and animals back into aquarium
- g. Monitor monthly for presence of zebra mussels

**Please do not flush moss balls or discard any water into a toilet, sink, bath tub, storm drain or any water sources like ponds, lakes or creeks.**

**For additional information please contact:  
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