

ATTENTION AQUARIUM OWNERS

NATIONWIDE RECALL ON CONTAMINATED MOSS BALL PRODUCTS



On March 3, 2021, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), along with wildlife agencies across the U.S., were alerted about the discovery of highly invasive zebra mussels found inside containers of “Betta Buddy Marimo Ball,” a moss plant for aquariums, along with other moss ball products. Investigative efforts by several state and federal agencies found a multitude of pet store chains and individual stores to carry several different contaminated moss ball products. National recalls have been issued on affected moss ball products. Unfortunately, many of these contaminated products have been shipped nationwide, including to stores throughout Georgia.

If zebra mussels, the infected moss balls, or infected water are dumped into public waters, the effects could be devastating. Zebra mussels cause millions of dollars in damage to boats and water intake pipes while also creating ecological harm to native mussels and other aquatic biota.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

YOUR HELP IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT! If you have purchased and/or used moss balls in 2021, we urge you to visit the websites below to learn how to properly dispose of these items and disinfect aquarium(s).

- Nationwide guidance for aquarium owners and how to decontaminate aquariums: [fws.gov/fisheries/ans/zebra-mussel-disposal.html](https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/zebra-mussel-disposal.html)
- Learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in GA: [georgiawildlife.com/ans](https://www.georgiawildlife.com/ans)

***WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN PREVENT THE
DAMAGE THAT ZEBRA MUSSELS CAN CAUSE.***

