
KEEP OUR WATERWAYS

PEST FREE

Some of New Zealand's fresh waterways have been contaminated with pests. Once established, they can spoil the recreational use of a waterway, as well as the way they look.



WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN STOP FRESH
WATER PESTS FROM SPREADING.

PROTECT YOUR PATCH

✓ CHECK

✓ CLEAN

✓ DRY

For more information, talk to your regional council or visit www.mpi.govt.nz
For a suspected find of didymo, contact MPI on **0800 80 99 66**.

New Zealand Government

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Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



SNEAKY LITTLE BUGGERS

Stealth is the main way these freshwater invaders travel. Sometimes a stream is infected but the pest isn't visible yet, so unaware, we spread the organism somewhere else.

These pests can start off microscopically small – just one drop of water on a bike spoke or one damp tramping sock can be its way in.

Once you're in the habit, it's not hard to stop them spreading – it just takes a bit of dedication to the cause.

Protect your patch – check, clean, dry.

WHAT ARE THEY?

The list of invasive plants includes didymo, hornwort, lagarosiphon, salvinia and hydrilla.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Form mats over waterways, affecting water quality
- Endanger fish and crowd out native species
- Create drowning risks for people and animals
- Aesthetically damage our clean, clear waterways
- Have significant economic impact
- Make recreational activities in the waterway difficult
- Block dams and irrigation systems

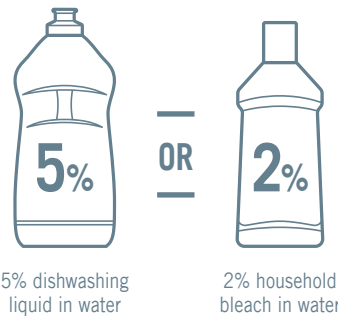
FOLLOW THESE STEPS FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN WET, WHEN YOU MOVE BETWEEN ANY WATERWAYS IN NEW ZEALAND.

✓ CHECK

Remove any plant matter. Check anything that's been in contact with the water, especially things like the tread of your shoe.

✓ CLEAN

Soak or scrub your equipment in water with detergent for at least a minute. Make sure the item is fully wet – without air-pockets or bits the water can't get to.



✓ DRY

Wait till the equipment is dry to touch, and leave it dry for at least 48 hours to make sure any invisible pests are completely dead.

WHICH STEPS WHEN?

A I'm only using one waterway
Great – you don't need to Check, Clean, Dry.

B I have several days between using one waterway and using another

✓ CHECK AND ✓ DRY

As long as your gear is clear of plant debris and has been dry to the touch for at least 48 hours, you're ok.

C I'm moving between waterways

✓ CHECK AND ✓ CLEAN

This is the prime time for spreading pests. Check and clean every item that has been wet.

If possible, leave to dry as well to be really sure.

CLEANING TIPS

- If you're cleaning something made of absorbent material, soak it for longer to make sure it's wet right through.
- Tip the cleaning water out well away from waterways. If you can, use a biodegradable detergent, and make sure it's safe for your equipment too.
- Freezing until solid is an effective alternative to cleaning.
- Use quick-dry or non-absorbent equipment where you can – you'll save on drying time.
- If there are two different waterways you use frequently, it might be easier to have a separate set of gear for each.
- For more cleaning tips go to [mpi.govt.nz](https://www.mpi.govt.nz)