

# Stop the freshwater gold clam



The freshwater gold clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) is a small shellfish that reproduces rapidly. It can clog water pipes and possibly overrun native species.

First found in the Waikato River in May 2023, it is an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act. Here are two things you can do to help stop it spreading.



## 1. Report any sightings

Adult clams are 2 to 3cm long and are typically dirty white, yellow or tan in colour. They have an obvious ribbed texture on the outside of the shell.

They're found in freshwater and estuaries or brackish waters, often buried in large clumps with some of the shell exposed.

Young clams can drift on the current, pulled along by a sticky thread.

If you find freshwater gold clam:

- note the location
- take a photo, if possible, of the clams and also the area around them
- contact Biosecurity New Zealand on **0800 80 99 66**
- or complete the online form at <https://report.mpi.govt.nz/>

Information is at:  
**[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/clam](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/clam)**

## 2. Check Clean Dry

### New clam-inclusive requirements

People using rivers and lakes can spread this clam and other invasive species when they shift watercraft and gear. To prevent this, when you move:

#### Check – for what is visible

- Remove anything visible including clams, weed or mud. Drain all lake or river water.

#### Clean – for what is not visible

- First, wash down your gear and craft with tap-water onto grass, beside the river or lake or at home – not into a stormwater drain system. This will flush off clams that can be too small to be seen.
- And, for gear made of absorbent materials (for example clothing, wetsuit, waders, booties), which will stay wet longer, treat with one of the following: (1) soak in hot tapwater (55°C) for at least 5 minutes, or (2) soak in 10 percent (1 in 10) household bleach and water mix for an hour, or (3) pop it in a freezer until solid.

#### Dry – to be sure

- For gear: allow it to dry to touch, inside and out, and then leave it to dry for at least 48 hours (2 days).
- For boats and other watercraft: dry areas inside where water has pooled, for example with an old towel, and then leave the craft to dry for at least 2 days. The hull of a watercraft will dry when towed.

