

HYGIENE GUIDELINES ARRIVE CLEAN, LEAVE CLEAN

AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT'S
**WILD
OTWAYS**
INITIATIVE



PHYTOPHTHORA MANAGEMENT

UNDERSTANDING PHYTOPHTHORA DIEBACK AND HYGIENE

Bushwalking, driving or field operations in bushland areas have the potential to spread dieback.

Dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) is an introduced plant pathogen that devastates native plant communities and the animal species that rely on them. It is recognised as one of the key threatening processes to Australia's biodiversity.

The pathogen lives in the soil, water and plant material. It attacks roots, restricting the uptake of water and nutrients, and killing the plant. Phytophthora can spread in both wet and dry conditions.

Preventing the spread of dieback is critical, as management options are limited once it is introduced to an area.



↑
Dieback
devastation



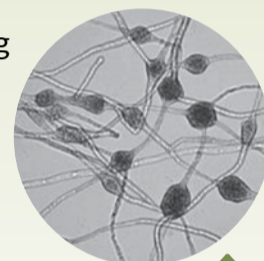
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Yellowing of
grass trees is
an early sign of
Phytophthora
dieback disease

PEOPLE SPREAD PHYTOPHTHORA DIEBACK

Human activity causes the greatest spread of dieback. Road building and maintenance, off-road driving, bushwalking and gardening can introduce and spread the pathogen through infected material.

Strict hygiene and effective management are essential to minimise the risk of dieback spread. In most cases, removing all mud and soil from footwear, vehicles, machinery and equipment minimises the risk of spreading dieback.

Community, industry and government are working together to control the spread of dieback. These guidelines provide information on the most effective ways to 'arrive clean and leave clean'.



↑
Chlamydospore in
Mycelium



1 CONSIDER YOUR RISK OF SPREADING DIEBACK

Will your activity involve any movement of soil or plant material?

- Avoid wet or muddy conditions.
- Be aware of dieback-free and infested areas prior to activities.
- Inspect and clean vehicles, equipment and footwear before entering bushland.
- Prepare a dieback hygiene kit.
- Stay on established roads and tracks.
- Follow all signs and guidance in relation to *Phytophthora* dieback.
- Ensure all soil or plant material sourced is dieback-free.



2 FOOTWEAR AND EQUIPMENT

- **CHECK** your footwear and other equipment for mud and soil before entering bushland. Try to remove dry mud and soil with a brush.
- **CLEAN** boots and equipment using cleaning stations provided or a dieback hygiene kit.
- **DISINFECT** boots and equipment by spraying with 70% methylated spirits, after brushing. Ensure your footwear and equipment is DRY before moving on.



3 FIELD HYGIENE KIT

- Prepare and carry a hygiene kit in packs and/or vehicles to help keep footwear, vehicles and equipment clean.

What to have in your kit:

- **Brush** (e.g. scrubbing brush or small screwdriver to act as soil/mud pick for boots).
- **Sprayers** (e.g. hand sprayer, garden pressure sprayer).
- **Methylated spirits** or approved sterilising agent.



4 VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

Dry Clean:

- If possible, clean vehicles and machinery when dry with compressed air, spade or brush before leaving home or depot. Dried mud and soil will be easier to remove without the use of water. Consider where infested soil will end up.
- Pay particular attention to wheels, mud flaps, undercarriage and floor mats.

Wash Down:

- Use a wash-down station or pressurised spray unit to remove any remaining soil, mud and plant material.
- Wash down on a hard, well drained surface in low lying areas (e.g. road, ramp or gate) and designated clean down points when entering dieback protection areas. Consider where run-off will drain.



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**EVERY STEP COUNTS
- KEEP YOURS CLEAN**