

## WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND'S UNIQUE WATERWAYS FROM HARMFUL FRESHWATER PESTS.

Unwanted freshwater pests, such as the invasive algae didymo, pose a serious threat to our rivers, streams and lakes. Once in a waterway they can disperse rapidly and destroy the environmental, recreational and aesthetic values of our waterways.



Some freshwater pests are microscopic and can be spread by a single drop of water. Even if you can't see the danger you could be spreading it. To slow the spread of freshwater pests you must **Check, Clean, Dry** your gear when you are moving from one waterway to another, anywhere in New Zealand.



**DIDYMO**

Freshwater pests like Salvinia can quickly form extensive mats, completely smothering waterways and badly affecting water quality. It can double in area within 10 days. The mats kill off native plants, attract breeding mosquitoes, block dams and irrigation systems, remove oxygen from the water and create a drowning risk for people and animals.



**SALVINIA**

Let's make sure our waterways remain free of freshwater pests so everyone can continue to enjoy them in their natural splendour for generations to come.

## WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY.

Individual river and lakes users should take care not to transport plants, fish and other organisms from one waterway to another. It's everyone's responsibility to slow the spread of freshwater pests like didymo. Remember to follow these simple steps:

### CHECK > CLEAN > DRY

#### CHECK

Before you leave a waterway, check items and leave any debris that have been in contact with the water at the site. If you find any later, treat and dispose in rubbish. Do not wash down drains.

#### CLEAN

Soak or spray items in at least a 5 percent dish detergent for as long as it takes for the solution to thoroughly saturate the item, plus for an additional minute.

#### DRY

Drying will kill didymo, but even slightly moist items can harbour didymo and other microscopic pests for months. To ensure didymo cells are dead by drying, the item must be **completely dry** to the touch, inside and out, then left dry for at least another 48 hours before use.



TRAMPING EQUIPMENT

Equipment made from absorbent material retains moisture, takes longer to dry out and is more difficult to decontaminate completely with cleaning solutions.

When cleaning equipment made from absorbent material, we recommend that you soak/spray for longer than the specified decontamination times to ensure the cleaning solution has soaked the item thoroughly.

Freezing any item until solid will kill didymo and greatly reduce the risk of spreading other freshwater pests.

## REMEMBER TO ALWAYS

- Remove all obvious debris from items that have been in contact with the water.
- Choose a decontamination solution (such as biodegradable dishwashing solution) that will not adversely affect your equipment or the environment.
- Dispose of cleaning waste well away from waterways.

## HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF FRESHWATER PESTS

Following the simple procedures in this brochure will help slow freshwater pests like didymo from spreading throughout New Zealand waterways. It's everyone's responsibility to try to preserve the environmental integrity of our waterways for future generations. Just remember to **Check Clean Dry** after enjoying our beautiful environment.

## ADDITIONAL STEPS TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS FROM DIDYMO

To reduce the risk of spreading freshwater pests like didymo, several measures have been put in place:

- The entire South Island is a MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) Controlled Area for Didymo. This means it is a legal requirement to decontaminate all equipment before leaving the South Island. Even though didymo hasn't been found in the North Island, everyone should Check Clean Dry their gear between fresh waterways regardless of location.
- New Zealand Fish and Game Council has restricted the use of footwear with felt soles by fishing licence holders. The condition is part of the Anglers Notice. For more information on these new regulations go to [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)
- MAFBNZ requires all used freshwater equipment imported into New Zealand to be declared on arrival.

## CONTACT

For further information on freshwater pests contact your local regional council, or visit the Biosecurity New Zealand website at [www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)

In partnership with regional councils, industry, iwi, and the community.

To report a suspected find of didymo, contact MAF Biosecurity New Zealand **0800 80 99 66**.

**New Zealand Government**

January 2010

# HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF FRESHWATER PESTS

**CHECK > CLEAN > DRY**

