

# PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF PHYTOPHTHORA DIEBACK HOW TO CLEAN YOUR VEHICLE

## Dieback

Phytophthora dieback is a plant disease that is caused by the introduced water mould *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. The disease affects many of the native plant communities from the south-west of WA including forests, woodlands and heathlands. Over 40% (2300) of native plant species in the south-west of Western Australia are susceptible. It also kills a large number of plants in home gardens including roses, azaleas, camellias and fruit trees.

The disease is commonly spread in contaminated soil and water carried on off-road vehicles, equipment and on footwear.

You can help prevent the spread of Phytophthora dieback by cleaning your vehicle before entering forests and bushland areas, sticking to tracks and observing road/track closures.

### Cleaning

- Vehicles, footwear and equipment should be cleaned before entering native bushland.
- Avoid allowing run-off from wash-downs to enter native vegetation and ensure drainage is contained on site, or washes back into sites known to be diseased.
- Minimise entering forest and bushland sites during significant rainfall events or if the soil is sticky and easily spread.
- Contact Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) or your Local Government for information on Phytophthora dieback occurrence in your area.



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## Cleaning Steps

1. Use hardstand area or public car wash to clean vehicle.
2. Remove all soil and organic material with a high pressure hose, garden hose or with brushes. Inspect the following areas:
  - BODY – Chassis, Inside, Underneath, Bumper Bars, Crevices, Mud Flaps;
  - TYRES – Inside Hub, Outside, Between Dual Wheels, Spare Wheel;
  - CABIN – Floor, Mats;
  - ENGINE – Radiator, Engine Bay & Grill; and
  - TRAY – Inside & Outside.
3. Ensure that effluent is contained and not allowed to spread off site. Do not pick up any infested material from the effluent when leaving the washdown site.
4. In addition to cleaning the car with water, a range of disinfectants may be used. For example, add 'fungicide' such as Phytoclean® or Coolacide® to water at label-recommended rates. Alternatively, 70% methylated spirits may be used.

For more information on Phytophthora dieback please contact your local DEC office or local government authority. Further information can be sourced from:

[www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au) | [www.dieback.net.au](http://www.dieback.net.au) | [www.dieback.com.au](http://www.dieback.com.au) | [www.dwg.org.au](http://www.dwg.org.au)  
[www.cpsm.murdoch.edu.au](http://www.cpsm.murdoch.edu.au)