

# PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF PHYTOPHTHORA DIEBACK PERSONAL HYGIENE KIT

## 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.

If you are working in bushland, parks and reserves you can help prevent the spread of Phytophthora dieback by cleaning your vehicle, footwear and equipment using the hygiene kit before entering forests and bushland areas.

## The Personal Hygiene Kit

The Dieback hygiene kit contains equipment and information to facilitate the cleaning and disinfection of footwear, small tools and equipment against Phytophthora dieback. When visiting native bushland in the south-west of WA you should carry the personal hygiene kit in your car and on your person.

The kits contains:

- methylated spirits;
- range of brushes;
- footbath;
- scrub mat; and
- spray bottles with 70% methylated spirits.



## Cleaning

Your dirty footwear and equipment can carry infested soil and lead to further spread of Phytophthora dieback.



## Cleaning steps under Dry Conditions:

1. Clean down within 'risk' zone just worked, on formed and impervious surface.
2. Remove clumps of soil and plant material with scrub mat and brushes.
3. Remove remaining soil & plant material from the scraper, brush and footwear with stiff brushing or compressed air.
4. Spray cleaned soles of footwear with 70% methylated spirits to disinfect any remaining material lodged in places difficult to access.

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## Cleaning Steps under Damp Conditions:

1. Use allocated wash down site or mobile footbath.
2. Add 'fungicide' such as Phytoclean® or Coolacide® to water at label-recommended rates. Alternatively, methylated spirits may also be used.
3. Wash equipment to remove soil & plant material.
5. Clean and disinfect footwear sole, spray with methylated Spirits and allow to dry.

Remember to scrub and disinfect your footwear and equipment whenever you leave:

- a Phytophthora dieback infested area.
- a site where Phytophthora dieback status is unknown.
- any natural watercourse or wet, muddy low-lying ground.



Examples of using the Personal Hygiene Kit – Scrub and Disinfect HORA HYGIENE KIT

## In Order to Recognise and Minimise Risk of Phytophthora dieback spread:

- Carefully plan all outside activities through familiarizing yourself the Phytophthora dieback status of sites intending to visit and/or work at. Standard signage and colour coding exists for dieback status as follows:

Note: Not all bushland sites are signed.

- Plan work / visits and travel through Moderate Risk sites first, before moving to High Risk sites. Never do the reverse unless you 'clean down' beforehand;
- Report any group of sick, dying or recently dead plants to DEC's Phytophthora coordinator;
- Minimise entering forest and bushland sites during significant rainfall events or if the soil is sticky and easily spread.
- Thoroughly clean footwear, vehicles, equipment and machinery as a quarantine measure every time. There are no exceptions!

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)