



Check, Clean, Dry

Prevent the spread of freshwater aquatic pests


As well as managing pest plants and animals across the region, ORC's biosecurity team works hard to prevent freshwater aquatic pests from entering and spreading throughout Otago's waterways.


Stopping pests before they spread is the best way to protect our waters because removing them later is hard and expensive. Just like you clean your boat and gear to keep them in good shape, cleaning for biosecurity helps protect the oceans we all love.

One of the ways the team does this is through an educational programme called Check, Clean, Dry. Every summer ORC staff will frequent rivers, lakes, swimming holes, and fishing spots throughout Otago, sharing with the public a simple 3-step method to help prevent the spread of aquatic pests.

If you're out on the water,
take a moment to:

 **CHECK** YOUR GEAR FOR STOWAWAY PESTS AND REMOVE THEM

 **CLEAN** YOUR GEAR THOROUGHLY

 **DRY** IT FOR 48 HOURS BEFORE RELOCATING TO ANOTHER WATERWAY!

Check, Clean, Dry vastly reduces the risk of aquatic pests hitchhiking from one waterway to another aboard our vessels and gear.

See over page for more details . . .

Some of our main freshwater aquatic pests:



Lagarosiphon



Didymo



Lake snow



Simple 3-step method to help prevent the spread of aquatic pests:

✓ CHECK

Check for and remove any plant matter from your gear and clothing and leave it at the site (the river or lake bank) or put it in the rubbish. Don't wash plant material down the drain.



✓ CLEAN

Use 10% dishwashing detergent mixed with water and leave the item wet for 10 minutes.

The rule of thumb for 10% detergent mix is:

For a 250ml (small) spray bottle, put in 1 and half tablespoons.

For a 500ml (large) spray bottle, put in 3 tablespoons.

For a 10-litre bucket, put in 1 litre of detergent.



Cleaning option	Amount	Duration
Dishwashing detergent or nappy cleaner	10% mix (1 litre to 10 litres of water)	Soak or spray all surfaces and leave wet for at least 10 minutes
Bleach	2% mix (200 ml to 10 litres of water)	Soak or spray all surfaces for at least 1 minute
Hot water above 60°C	Soak entire item	Soak for at least 1 minute
Hot water above 45°C	Soak entire item	Soak for at least 20 minutes
Freezing		Until solid

Note: 60°C is hotter than most tap water; 45°C is uncomfortable to touch. Allow longer times for absorbent items.

✓ DRY

Ensure your gear is completely dry to touch, inside and out, then leave dry for at least another 48 hours before you use it. This is an important step, as didymo can survive for months on moist gear.



Learn more at orc.govt.nz/CCD