



CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

# CHECK, CLEAN, DRY ADVICE FOR WHITEBAITERS

Moving between waterways has the potential to spread freshwater pests that can clog nets and choke waterways, including whitebait habitats.

**So please always *Check, Clean, Dry* to protect our waterways.**

That means cleaning your nets and other gear between waterways during whitebait season to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests such as didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) and oxygen weed/lagarosiphon (*Lagarosiphon major*).



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Freshwater pests can be spread as **single cells or tiny fragments** from one river or lake to another by the movement of water, equipment, clothing and any other damp item. People and their activities are the main cause of spread. To ensure you don't spread freshwater pests restrict, if possible, the use of equipment, clothing and other items to a single waterway. If you use multiple waterways treat every waterway as though it contains freshwater pests, whether visible or not, and *Check, Clean, Dry* your equipment before moving into another.

Equipment made of highly absorbent materials like waders and boots pose **a high risk of transferring didymo**. They are likely to come into direct physical contact with didymo cells (through stepping on or brushing against algal mats) and the moisture in them helps the cells to survive. For this reason extra care is required to *Check, Clean, Dry* them between waterways. The thicker and denser the absorbent material, the better it will be at holding moisture and live cells, the slower it will be to dry out and the more difficult it will be to soak completely with cleaning solutions.

Good freshwater hygiene is important for protecting our environment and economy from pests. Local and visiting whitebaiters have an important role to play in protecting the places they visit.

New Zealand rivers offer some of the best fishing in the world. Please help us to keep it that way.



DIDYMO

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## HOW TO CHECK, CLEAN, DRY YOUR WHITEBAITING GEAR

### CHECK:

Before leaving a waterway thoroughly check all equipment, clothing and other items for traces of freshwater pests. Remove any obvious weed fragments and other debris.

### CLEAN:

#### • Cleaning Solution:

Nets, waders and other items made of absorbent material can be decontaminated by soaking in a 5 percent solution of dishwashing liquid or nappy cleaner for as long as it takes to thoroughly saturate the item. Leave the item soaking for an additional minute to kill cells trapped deep within the cracks, crevices and absorbent parts of the item. Non-absorbent items such as metal set nets, tyres, trailers and buckets can be soaked or sprayed with the above products. Whitebait nets with hollow frames will hold water inside the frame; drill holes in the frame and flush through with a decontamination solution then allow the solution to drain out.

For very absorbent materials, completely immerse the item for 30 minutes in hot tap water (kept above 45°C) containing 5 percent chosen decontamination solution.

Follow the manufacturer's safety instructions when using decontamination products and dispose of cleaning waste well away from waterways.

#### • Hot Water:

Another option for decontaminating your gear includes soaking it in hot water (above 45°C) for at least 20 minutes for non-absorbent items.

For absorbent items careful attention is needed to ensure the temperature of the water is maintained at no less than 45°C for 40 minutes to ensure the interior of the material reaches a sufficient temperature to kill all cells.

#### • Seawater:

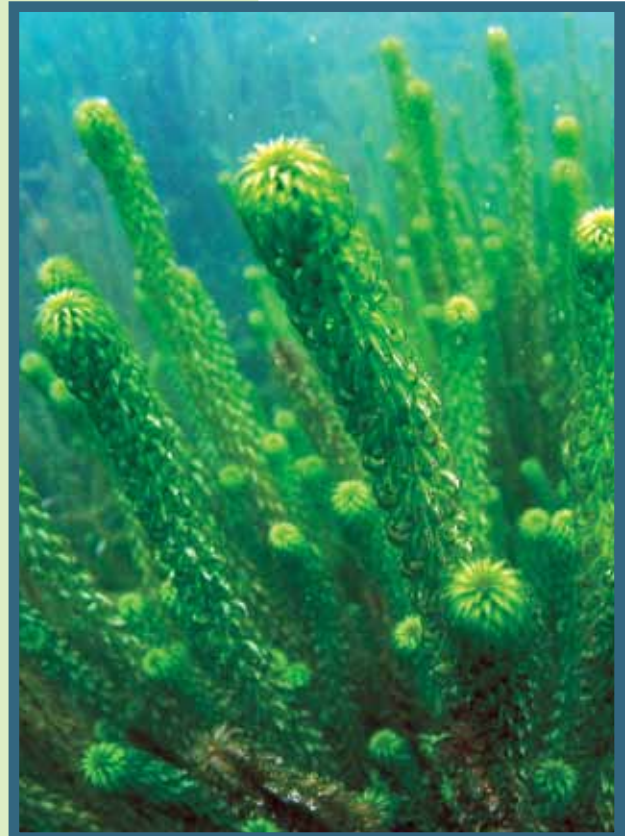
Diluted seawater, such as that found in whitebaiting areas doesn't kill didymo. If you prefer to decontaminate your gear with salt, use a 2 percent by volume salt solution (saltier than seawater) prepared by adding one small cup (200mls) of table salt to water to make 10 litres. Soak for as long as it takes to thoroughly saturate the item, then leave the item to soak for an additional 10 minutes.

Undiluted seawater will kill didymo. Submerging your net in 100 percent seawater for four hours will kill didymo.

### DRY:

Although thorough drying will kill most freshwater pests, slightly moist didymo can live for months. If you are hanging up your nets to drain and dry, ensure they are completely dry to the touch, inside and out, and then leave for at least 48 hours before use.

Do not rely on ambient drying as a stand-alone treatment for decontaminating highly absorbent equipment in situations where use between waterways is frequent. Drying should only be used as a decontamination treatment if great care is taken to actively and completely dry the absorbent material. Once completely dry, items must remain dry for at least 48 hours before use in another waterway.



LAGAROSIPHON

**It is only necessary to *Check, Clean, Dry* when moving between waterways**

**More information on how to *Check, Clean, Dry* can be found at [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/didymo/cleaning](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/didymo/cleaning)**

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