

DIEBACK

HYGIENE GUIDELINES

EVERY STEP COUNTS - KEEP YOURS CLEAN



Dieback affected community

Understanding Dieback and Hygiene

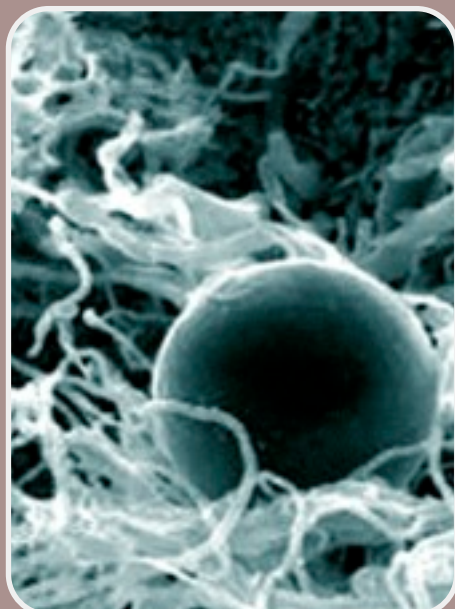
Bushwalking, driving or field operations in bushland areas have the potential to spread dieback.

Dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) is a plant pathogen that originated in the Asian tropics. It is recognised as one of the key threatening processes to Australia's biodiversity.

Dieback lives in soil, water and plant material. It attacks roots restricting the uptake of water and nutrients. Its thread-like vegetative mycelium feeds on and destroys plant cells. This kills the plant.

The pathogen produces different microscopic spores; short-lived swimming zoospores during warm moist conditions and long-lived dormant spores that can survive in dry conditions and after fire.

**BE
CLEAN
IN THE
GREEN**



Chlamydospore in mycelium

People Spread Dieback

Human activity causes the greatest spread of dieback. Road building and maintenance, mining, off-road driving, bushwalking and gardening can introduce and spread the pathogen through infected material. Dieback can then spread quickly downhill in water and slowly by growing from root to root.

Strict hygiene and effective management are essential to minimise the risk of dieback spread. In most cases, removing all mud and soil from footwear, vehicles, machinery and equipment minimises the risk of spreading the plant pathogen.

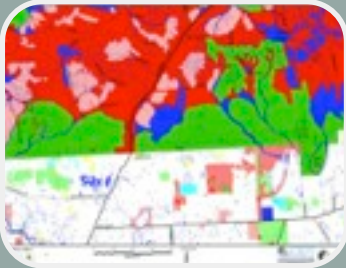
Community, industry and government are working together to control the spread of dieback. The following guidelines provide information on the most effective ways to "be clean in the green".

**DON'T
SPREAD
THE
RED**

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PLANNING & PREPARATION



Consider your risk of Spreading Dieback

Will your activity involve any movement of soil or plant material?

- Schedule activities for low rainfall months and avoid wet or muddy conditions.
- Be aware of Dieback Free and Infested areas prior to activities.
- Inspect and clean vehicles, equipment and footwear before entering bushland.
- Prepare a dieback hygiene kit.
- Stay on established roads and tracks.
- Do not enter dieback restricted areas and be aware of dieback signage.
- Ensure all soil or plant material is sourced from dieback free certified pits and nurseries.
- Seek up to date information and further advice at dieback.net.au
- Strategic mapping also available at didms.gaiaresources.com.au

CLEANING & STERILISING



Footwear & Equipment

- Use boot cleaning stations where available and use a dieback hygiene kit when entering and exiting bushland.
- Try to remove mud and soil when it is dry with a brush.
- Spray 70% methylated spirits on footwear and equipment after brushing and ensure they are dry before moving on.

Field Hygiene Kit

Prepare and carry a hygiene kit in packs and/or vehicles to help keep footwear, vehicles and equipment clean.

What to have in your kit...

- Brush (e.g. scrubbing brush, pick & brush)
- Sprayers (e.g. hand sprayer, garden pressure sprayer).
- 70% Methylated spirits or approved sterilant.

Vehicles & Machinery

Dry Clean

- If possible, clean vehicles and machinery when dry with compressed air, spade or brush before leaving home or depot. Dried mud and soil will be easier to remove without the use of water. Consider where infested soil will end up.
- Pay particular attention to wheels, mud flaps, undercarriage and floor mats.

Wash-down

- Use wash-down station or pressurised spray unit to remove any remaining soil, mud and plant material.
- Wash-down on a hard, well drained surface in low lying areas (e.g. road, ramp or grate) and designated clean down points when entering dieback protection areas. Consider where runoff will drain.
- Use approved sterilant in wash-down water.
- Do not drive through wash-down effluent.



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Department of Environment and Conservation
Our environment, our future



STATE NRM PROGRAM