

Biosecurity practices for property visitors

BIOSECURITY TASMANIA FACT SHEET

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HYG-001

Pests, diseases and weeds are a threat to rural industries and natural environments. All can be spread through the movement of people, machinery and vehicles.

Visitors to rural properties and natural places have a responsibility to protect these places by maintaining good biosecurity practices.



Vehicles should be regularly inspected and cleaned.



All dirt and plant material should be removed.

Before you arrive

Contact the owner

Inform the landowner or manager when you intend to enter the property and ask if there are any declared pests, quarantined areas or other issues on the property that may require extra vigilance.

Find out if there are any biosecurity requirements, such as designated parking areas, and if there are cleaning and wash down facilities available.

Check your clothes, vehicle and equipment

The movement of people, vehicles and equipment can carry pests, diseases and weeds between properties. This may occur directly or in transported plant material, soil or manure. For this reason, people, vehicles and equipment pose a high biosecurity risk to properties and should be managed accordingly.

All vehicles and equipment should be visually inspected for dirt and plant material before entering a new property. Inspection should include floor mats, tyres, radiators, grills, wheel arches, the chassis and protruding parts. Clothing and work boots should also be regularly inspected.

Clean, clean, clean

It's important to clean vehicles and equipment before visiting a property to ensure that dirt and plant material is removed. This will minimize the risk of spreading pests, diseases and weeds. Pay particular attention to the undercarriage of vehicles and hard to reach places where soil and vegetation might collect.

This is especially important for haulers, machinery contractors and suppliers of materials to rural enterprises.

Carry an equipment hygiene kit in your vehicle

The kit should contain items to clean clothing, vehicles and equipment, as well as any personal safety gear.

Basic equipment hygiene kit

- Stiff brushes and a scraper for cleaning boots and equipment
- Dustpan and brush for cleaning cabin of vehicles
- Boot covers or spare boots
- Disposable gloves
- Plastic tray and/or bucket (to use as a footbath and to clean equipment)
- Detergent or disinfectant for disinfecting boots and equipment
- Hand sanitizer or hand wash
- Strong plastic bags for disposable items, dirty clothing and shoes
- 5 L water

When you get there

Check in

Sign the register if provided. It helps record movement to and from the property and can be used to trace the potential spread of pests, diseases and weeds.

Keep to formed tracks

Use formed tracks wherever possible to minimize your contact with crops and other vegetation. This will help prevent pest, disease and weed spread.

Leave gates as you find them

Livestock movement can be a risk to biosecurity. Animals can carry soil in their hooves, and weed seeds in their fleece, hair and gut. They can also transport plant diseases when moving through crops.

Ensure that animals are kept in designated paddocks by leaving each gate as you found it or as instructed by the property manager.

Report anything unusual

Notify the landowner or manager if you see any unusual weeds, plant pests or obvious plant health concerns. Your information might help them identify and control problems.

Before you leave

Clean, clean, clean

It is just as important not to take problems off a property. Ensure you make use of available facilities such as vehicle wash-down stations or find other appropriate facilities to clean all soil and plant material from your vehicle, equipment and clothing.

This is especially important when you are moving between properties in different areas.

Check out

For your own safety, advise the owner or manager when you are leaving the property, or sign out of the register if provided. Remember to advise the owner or manager of any unusual plant pests, weeds or other plant and animal health concerns.

What you risk from poor biosecurity

Poor biosecurity practices introduce risks such as:

- Introducing unwanted pests, diseases or weeds into Tasmania
- Spreading pests, diseases and weeds to a new location within Tasmania such as a conservation area or farm
- Leaving a land manager with a costly, possibly long term management problem
- Loss of access to properties where your hygiene is seen as suspect and a risk to biosecurity
- Negative feedback for you and your business

i Further information

Biosecurity Tasmania has a range of experts who can provide advice about good biosecurity. Refer to the contact details below.

The Farm Biosecurity website also has useful information about biosecurity hygiene, creating biosecurity plans and identifying biosecurity risks:

www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

