

# Guidelines



## Weed and disease hygiene in coastal areas

G-8.2

Good weed and disease hygiene is critical in coastal areas to avoid introducing weeds and diseases in imported materials and spreading weeds or diseases from an infested area to an un-infested area on vehicles, machinery and other equipment and clothing. Some coastal vegetation such as coastal heath is highly susceptible to Phytophthora root rot disease and all coastal areas are susceptible to weeds.

It is important to wash down tools, machinery and personal equipment when moving between work sites, particularly when some sites are known to be infested or to be free of weeds and disease. Washdown procedures might add time to your work programs and schedules but they will save you time and money by greatly reducing your weed and disease management requirements in the near future.

*Use these guidelines in conjunction with the information provided in Chapter 8 when planning works and engaging consultants and contractors to ensure the proposed works use the most effective methods and minimise the risk of causing damage to coastal values.*

### Weed hygiene

Identify sites infested with weeds and disease. Consult with specialists and map existing infestations to enable planning for weed hygiene measures.

Avoid slashing in weed infested areas when seed heads are mature to reduce spreading the weed on site and collecting seed heads on machinery that could then be transported to new sites.

Portable washbaths are recommended for washing footwear and small tools.

Make use of permanent commercial washdown stations for vehicles and machinery where appropriate and available.

Choose washdown sites that will minimise the potential to spread weeds and diseases; at the edge of the work site where the land slopes back into the infested area and will not enter a watercourse.

### When to washdown

Washdown tools, machinery and personal equipment when moving between work sites, particularly if moving between infested and non-infested work sites.

Washdown should be undertaken:

- before entering a new site
- after operating in an area affected by a weed or disease that is under containment
- after transporting weeds or soil known to be infected with weed seeds or a plant pathogen
- before moving machinery along roadsides or river banks, or transporting soil and quarry materials.

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### Washdown techniques for vehicles

Remove any cover plates etc. that can be quickly and easily removed and replaced. Sweep, blow or wash out soil and plant material.

No clods of dirt or loose soil should be present after washdown. Smeared soil stains are acceptable.

Radiator, grills and the interior of vehicles should be free of accumulations of seed, plant material and soil.

Some machinery, should not be washed with water. Refer to manufacturer's information. Such equipment can be treated with an air compressor.

### Portable washdown stations

Portable washdown stations can be taken out into the field and involve a tank and pump fixed to a trailer.

A shovel, crow bar and stiff brush are also required.

Where a blowdown only is required, compressors or portable blower vacs may be used along with a small brush.

### For personal equipment and small tools

Washbaths can be made from a fish box (or other suitably sized plastic box) fitted with an open weave plastic doormat, a scrubbing brush, a pair of safety gloves, glasses, detergent or fungicide, and a container of clean water.

Add the fungicide Phytoclean™ to washbaths to control the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* if required.

### More Information

*Keeping it clean*, Allan and Gartenstein 2010

*Tasmanian coastal works manual*: Chapter 8, Page & Thorp 2010

*Tasmanian washdown guidelines for weed and disease control*, Rudman et al. 2004

# Checklist



## C-8.2

## Weed and disease hygiene in coastal areas

Good weed and disease hygiene is critical in coastal areas to avoid introducing weeds and diseases in imported materials and spreading weeds or diseases from an infested area to an un-infested area on vehicles, machinery and other equipment and clothing. Some coastal vegetation such as coastal heath is highly susceptible to *Phytophthora* root rot disease and all coastal areas are susceptible to weeds.

It is important to washdown tools, machinery and personal equipment when moving between work sites, particularly when some sites are known to be infested or to be free of weeds and disease. Washdown procedures might add time to works programs and schedules but they will save time and money by greatly reducing weed and disease management requirements in the near future.

Use this checklist in conjunction with the accompanying Guideline and the information provided in Chapter 8 when planning works and engaging consultants and contractors to ensure the proposed works use the most effective methods and minimise the risk of causing damage to coastal values.

### Planning

- Sites with weeds and diseases identified and mapped
- Consultation with specialists
- Weed hygiene measures selected and described
- Washdown sites selected

### Weed management staff and contractors

- Land management staff, works crews and contractors trained and briefed in weed and disease hygiene protocols
- Contractors can demonstrate a high standard of environmental management practices
- Clear weed hygiene targets provided in contract schedules

### Reducing spread of weeds and diseases

- Weed hygiene practices implemented
- Slashing avoided in weed infested areas when seed heads are ripe
- Works scheduled to avoid shorebird, penguin and shearwater breeding times
- Any slashing or mowing scheduled to promote native species and minimise weed seed spread
- Use of herbicides minimised and where required the appropriate herbicide is applied correctly and safely
- Any new weed incursions identified and reported to DPIPWE weed section
- Weeds disposed of appropriately. Permits may be required

- Weeds left or removed in stages where providing habitat for native wildlife
- Monitoring and follow-up program established and implemented

### Washdown when:

- Entering a new site
- Operating in an area with weeds and disease that are under containment
- After transporting weeds or soil infected with disease or weed seeds
- Before moving machinery along roadsides or riverbanks
- Before and after transporting soil and quarry materials

### Washdown techniques for vehicles

- Cover plates etc. removed
- Soil and plant material swept, blown or washed out
- All clods of dirt and loose soil removed
- Radiator, grills and vehicle interior free of dirt
- Blowdown used on machinery that cannot be washed down

### Personal equipment and tools

- Washbath set up with plastic tub for water, brushes, detergent and rubber gloves
- Fungicide added if soil pathogens present

### More Information

*Keeping it clean*, Allan and Gartenstein 2010

*Tasmanian coastal works manual*: Chapter 8, Page & Thorp 2010

*Tasmanian washdown guidelines for weed and disease control*, Rudman et al. 2004

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