

Island Biosecurity

Many of Tasmania's islands are free from pests and weeds, or have far fewer than mainland Tasmania. By adhering to strict environmental standards we can all help to ensure that islands remain in good shape.

Many invasive organisms rely on humans for dispersal across barriers like the sea. Visitors may unwittingly transport unwelcome hitchhikers (plant and animal pests) to Tasmania's islands.

Much time and effort is spent by Parks and Wildlife staff and volunteers to keep islands clear of invasive species or diseases. All this good work can quickly be undone or reversed through careless inattention.

FUNGI and DISEASE

- Check, clean and dry all footwear and clothing before leaving home to avoid transporting pest and pathogens in soil and wet items (e.g. weed seeds, Chytrid fungus and Phytophthora root rot).
- Carry bottled, town or rainwater. Natural water from Tasmanian rivers may carry a range of introduced organisms including Chytrid which is infecting frogs in Tasmania.
- Clean footwear before you leave home. If you arrive by boat please dunk your footwear in seawater before stepping onto land as this provides some level of protection against the spread of the plant disease *Phytophthora* which is infecting plant communities around Tasmania. Coastal heath is particularly vulnerable to this disease.

PLANT SEEDS.

- Remove plant fragments from yourself and your gear. Polar fleece, clothing pockets, daypacks, socks and shoes readily transport seeds. Please check all your clothing for plant seeds.
- Avoid where possible garments or gear that have 'Velcro' attachments, as they are the most prone to collecting and transmitting seeds. However, if you must take a Velcro garment, thoroughly inspect and clean it of all seeds and plant material.
- All items of clothing and equipment, to be used in water need to be checked, cleaned and then dried for 48 hours before departing on a trip.
- All packaging, clothing and bags etc, should be vacuumed for weed seed and plant material - include pockets. If you are taking a tent make sure it has received similar treatment and pay careful attention to the removal of soil from tent pegs and poles.

PEST ANIMALS.

- Daypacks provide the greatest risk for transporting insects or other animals (mice!). Please ensure that your pack is not carrying any unwanted pests!
- Carefully check, clean (and dry) your watercraft, backpack, bags or any other containers carried on board, for spiders, insects, lizards, mice and other 'freeloaders'.

- Ensure all packaging and equipment is free of crevices and hollow sections vermin can hide in (eg wood and cardboard boxes). Simple plastic bins or barrels are best. Plastic bins should have well fitted sealed lids. Avoid polystyrene packaging as it is prone to damage and become an ingestion hazard for seabirds
- All fresh vegetables taken to an island must be unpacked from the original packaging, inspected and resealed (try breathable plastic bags - a new innovation that has recently come onto the market) ready for the journey.
- Keep all containers sealed. Only open containers as long as access is needed and seal immediately to prevent stow-aways. This includes clothing bags, food containers, boat hatches and sea kayak compartments.
- Don't run lines ashore if you can anchor securely offshore – they can provide a point of access for insects and rodents.
- Carry insect spray for control of invertebrates on boats.
- Don't take domestic animals to uninhabited islands