

Didymo Stop the Spread

Didymo is an algae made up of cells that cannot be seen with the naked eye until large colonies form. It only takes one of these cells to survive and be transported to a nearby waterway for Didymo to spread. Didymo cells thrive in freshwater and if you are cleaning with freshwater you are helping to keep them alive.

Didymo is an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Under the Act those knowingly spreading an unwanted organism can be liable for up to five years' imprisonment and/or a \$100,000 fine.

To ensure you do not spread Didymo, wherever possible restrict equipment, boats, clothing and other items for exclusive use in a single waterway.

If you are moving items between waterways you must:

1. **Check:** Before leaving the river, remove all obvious clumps of algae and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the affected site. If you find any later, do not wash them down drains. Treat them with the approved cleaning methods below, dry them and put them in a rubbish bin.
2. **Clean:** Soak or scrub all items for at least one minute in either, hot (60°C) water, a two percent solution of household bleach or a five percent solution of salt, nappy cleaner, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent. A two percent solution is 200ml, a five percent solution is 500ml (two large cups), with water added to make 10 litres.
3. **Dry:** If cleaning is not practical (i.e. livestock), after the items is completely dry to touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway. Fish, plants, rocks and other river items should not be moved between waterways.

For up to date information please visit: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo

To report a suspected find of Didymo please call 0800 80 99 66