

Phytophthora Bushwalking Guidelines

Phytophthora (pronounced fy-TOFF-thora), otherwise known as root-rot fungus is killing our native plants and threatens the survival of animals depending on plants for food and shelter. This introduced fungus can be found in plant roots, soil and water. Bushwalkers can spread *Phytophthora* by allowing moist soil and plant material to stick to footwear.



Help stop the spread with these guidelines:

- Before you go walking contact your local national parks office for information on suitable bushwalking areas as *Phytophthora* management restrictions may be in force.
- Park your car in designated car parks only.
- Keep to designated roads and walking trails at all times.
- Avoid bushwalking when soil is wet or muddy.
- Start and finish your bushwalk with clean footwear. Remove soil from footwear before leaving an area - don't take boots or shoes home to clean. Keep your footwear as clean as possible during the walk.
- Clean your footwear at hygiene stations where provided.
- Some areas within reserves may be closed due to serious infestations or high risk of spread.

Please comply with access restriction signs - Penalties may apply.

Spread the word – not *Phytophthora*!



How to keep your footwear clean

Bushwalkers are encouraged to carry a hygiene kit in their backpacks to keep footwear clean.

A "hygiene kit" should contain:

- hardbrush to clean footwear
- bottle of disinfectant:
 - methylated spirits (undiluted) or
 - household bleach (dilute 1 part of bleach with 4 parts of water) and a
- small spray bottle to spray disinfectant onto footwear.



Thank you for helping stop the spread of *Phytophthora*.

Cleaning procedure:

1. Select a hard, well-drained site.
2. Remove all soil and plant material from one boot using the brush.
3. Do not put that boot on the ground.
4. Disinfect the entire sole using the spray bottle with disinfectant.
5. Allow the sole of the boot to dry for approximately one minute.
6. Step forward to avoid recontaminating footwear
7. Repeat step 2 to 6 for the other boot.
8. Disinfect the brush.

For further reading refer to the brochure '*Phytophthora*, root-rot fungus is killing our plants', which is available at selected park offices.

Or through the website:

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/plantsand.html>

