

## *Phytophthora* Horse Riding Guidelines

*Phytophthora* (pronounced fy-TOFF-thora) are soil and waterborne fungi that kill a wide variety of native plant species, fruits, vegetables, nuts and ornamental plants. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (Pc), also known as Cinnamon Fungus, is the most common and destructive species, and requires immediate action to stop its spread.

Horse riders can spread the disease in moist soil and plant material that sticks to horses' hooves, boots, bandages, bandage covers or boot covers.

You can help minimise the risk of spreading *Phytophthora* by following these guidelines:

- Contact Horse SA, your local Department for Environment and Heritage or ForestrySA for information on suitable horse riding areas.
- Park your car and float in designated car parks or on sealed surfaces where possible.
- Keep to designated horse riding trails at all times.
- Avoid riding when the soil is wet or muddy.
- Avoid using bandages and boots, unless covered with all-purpose bandage covers or boot covers.
- Start and finish your horse ride with clean bandage covers and/or boot covers. (i.e. free of all soil and plant material). Keep them as clean as possible during the ride.



Bandage cover

- Remove soil from your horse's bandage covers and/or boot covers, and disinfect them before entering and leaving an area. Do not take them home to clean.
- Some horse trails or sections of national parks may be closed due to serious infestations or high risk of spread.  
**OBEY TRAIL CLOSED SIGNS**  
- penalties may apply.



**Spread the word –  
not the fungus!**

### How to clean your horse's hooves

Horse riders are encouraged to carry a hygiene kit to clean their horse's hooves. This hygiene kit can be kept in a float and used after a ride or carried with you if undertaking a long ride.

A hygiene kit should contain:

- hoof pick, with brush attached or a separate stiff brush
- small spray bottle, and
- bottle of disinfectant, such as methylated spirits (70-100% solution).



## Cleaning procedure:

1. Select a hard, well-drained site such as a road.
2. Remove your horse's bandage covers and/or boot covers. Place them near your horse for cleaning.
3. Clean the hoof using the hoof pick and brush.
4. Disinfect the entire hoof using the spray bottle containing disinfectant.
5. Allow the hoof to dry, being careful to place the hoof on the ground, if possible away from the soil cleaned out from the hoof.
6. Clean and disinfect the other hooves in the same way.
7. Remove all soil and plant material from the bandage covers and/or boot covers using the hoof pick and brush, and disinfect.
8. Disinfect the hoof pick and brush.



1. Clean the hoof using the hoof pick and brush



2. Disinfect

**Note:** Always start your ride with clean footwear. If you need to dismount during the ride in a *Phytophthora* infested area, then clean and disinfect your footwear using the hoof pick and brush and disinfect.

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

### For more information please contact:

- Horse SA – phone: (08) 8294 2460
- Department for Environment and Heritage, Victor harbor. (08) 8552 0306
- Your local Department for Environment and Heritage Office
- ForestrySA – phone Kuitpo Office (08) 8391 8800 or Mount Crawford Office (08) 8524 6004
- Refer to the brochure 'Phytophthora, root-rot fungus is killing our plants', which is available at selected park offices or from Horse SA
- Or through the websites: [www.horsesa.asn.au](http://www.horsesa.asn.au)  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/plantsand.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/plantsand.html)