

Some notes on Bush Hygiene for bushwalkers and field naturalists

When entering and leaving natural areas:

- Ensure there are no seeds caught in your footwear or clothes, paying particular attention to shoe tread, laces, Velcro, the sides of tongues, cuffs, socks and inside pockets.
- Ensure there is no mud or soil on the soles of your shoes. To avoid spreading *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, you must clean, dry and then spray the soles of your shoes with 70% Methylated Spirits, making sure that the meths stays on the soles for one minute or more. (Warning: Methylated Spirits is flammable so keep well away from open flames and cigarettes).

Weeding Tools and other equipment taken on Field Trips must be cleaned using the same method.

In the field, clean dirty shoes with a brush or use local site water/ rainwater or reticulated water, dry them, and then spray with methylated spirits before you walk in a new location.

At home, you can clean shoes in your laundry trough where effluent goes directly into a septic or sewer system.

To clean your car, use commercial car washes if your home drainage does not go directly into the storm water. (Some people have infected their gardens at home with *P. cinnamomi* through car washing).