

# North Island Check Clean Dry for whitebaiters

The **Check Clean Dry** guidelines have been updated for the North Island to better protect our waterways. These new measures will help prevent the spread of invasive freshwater pests and weeds, including the invasive clam found in the Waikato River system (from Lake Maraetai at Mangakino, downstream).



If you stay in the same spot, there's no need to **Check Clean Dry** but if you move around, following these guidelines will help preserve our beautiful rivers and lakes for Whitebaiting for years to come. Use the handy table below to see what you must do.

<p>I am <b>only</b> using my Whitebaiting net and other gear the same part of this one lake or river...</p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or clams, and then you are good to go.</p>
<p>I may go whitebaiting in more than one river or stream in the next 10 days</p>	<p><b>Firstly</b> – consider the option of borrowing gear at the location where you intend to go. If that's not possible, go to the next box below.</p>
<p>I will go whitebaiting in more than one river or stream in the next 10 days</p> <p><b>Note: Whitebaiting gear will likely include items made of absorbent materials</b> – nets, traps and waders, wader boots or wetsuits</p> <p>If you use a boat, please see the separate table for power boats.</p>	<p><b>CHECK</b> and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams at the river. Drain river water, for example from your net pole and excess water from your bucket, to grass and not to a stormwater drain.</p> <p>Then to <b>CLEAN</b> it for invasives that are invisible (eg juvenile clams, algae, fish eggs, weed fragments): Blast your net and gear with a hose, using tap-water and onto grass, beside the river (if possible) or at home and not into a stormwater drain system.</p> <p>And, for <b>absorbent materials</b>, that stay wet longer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soak in hot water above 60°C for at least 1 minute, or between 50–54°C (hot household tap-water) for at least 5 minutes, or above 45°C for at least 20 minutes. <b>Or</b></li> <li>• Mix household bleach in a 10% (1 in 10) ratio with water and immerse for 1 hour. <b>Or</b></li> <li>• Freeze it all until solid (overnight).</li> </ul> <p><b>DRY</b> to touch and then leave the net and other gear to completely dry for another 48 hours. This will further reduce survival of the clam and other invasives.</p>
<p>I am <b>not going to use</b> this net or other gear any time in the next 10 days...</p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams; pull out the bungs; drain or dry any remaining pooled water, and let it all <b>completely Dry</b>.</p>
<p><b>Transfer of live whitebait to other waterways is illegal</b> in addition there is potential to transfer juvenile clams.</p>	

Reviewed: 26 August 2024



**Biosecurity New Zealand**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua