

Biosecurity Best Practice

Please follow these practices to reduce the spread of crayfish plague

Crayfish plague spores can be spread on damp equipment such as fishing tackle, canoes and machinery. Do not move any equipment that has been in contact with river or lake water without either disinfecting (iodine based disinfectant / Virkon) or washing (clean tap water) then drying completely.

The cheapest, safest and most effective way of disinfecting any equipment is to thoroughly dry it in sunlight for a minimum of 48hrs. **It is essential that all mud and debris is removed first.**

If this is not possible then the use of Virkon as a disinfectant is the next best alternative. **Again it is essential that all mud and debris are removed first** before applying Virkon. For boots it is best to use a boot dip if possible (step in tub) or to spray the whole of the boot liberally with Virkon. For other equipment (nets, sample cans, etc) it is recommended to immerse for 10-15 minutes in Virkon solution and then to rinse with clean water or leave to dry.

Virkon solution is best made up using Virkon (5mg) tablets, where one tablet is added to 500ml of water (2 to 1litre). This will then go pink and stay active for approximately 5 days. After this the pink colour will start to fade and the solution should be changed. Dispose of used solution safely (not surface water drain).



Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particular in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.



Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. Remember mud can retain spores so needs to be removed completely. Use hot water where possible. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.



Dry all equipment and clothing - some species live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

More information and resources can be found on the [non-native species website](#).

If you see any dead crayfish do not handle or remove them, please report it to our 24 hour incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60.