

Lord Howe Island Myrtle Rust Response Hygiene Guidelines

Basic hygiene measures

LOW RISK: For visitors or residents not involved in the myrtle rust response or living on sites with known infections.

Recommended hygiene protocol for personnel, clothing, footwear, tools and equipment.

1. Check personnel, clothing, footwear, backpacks and equipment for soil, plant material/propagules and other debris.
2. Remove all soil, plant material and other debris using a hard brush and (if required) clean water. If dirty, wash hands with soap and water.
3. If entering the Permanent Park Preserve use boot scrub bays on entry.
4. If you have recently visited the east coast of Australia or are in an area known to have myrtle rust, use the provided 70% ethanol spray bottles to sanitise any items that have not been recently laundered (e.g., bags, hats, walking boots, camera bags, walking poles etc.).

Enhanced hygiene measures

MEDIUM RISK: For visitors or residents living in or visiting a known infected site **but not** involved in the myrtle rust response.

Recommended hygiene protocol for personnel and clothing.

1. Avoid walking in the vicinity of infected plants or driving and parking vehicles near the infected plant.
2. Avoid hanging clothes near an infected plant or leaving tools and equipment where spores may settle on them.
3. Wash down any vehicles that may have been parked near the infected plant prior to the discovery of the infection with strong detergent.
4. Regularly launder clothes to remove any spores that may be on them and sanitise with 70% ethanol any items that have not been laundered (e.g., bags, hats, walking boots, camera bags, walking poles etc.).

Strict hygiene measures

HIGH RISK: For LHI Board staff, volunteers or contractors working on the myrtle rust response.

Recommended hygiene protocol for personnel, clothing, footwear, tools and equipment.

1. Establish a set hygiene point at the edge of the property or at a suitable location away from the infection point.
2. On entering the site leave any unnecessary items at the hygiene point. Do not take bags or equipment in if not needed.
3. Put on coveralls and change footwear at the hygiene point, clean all tools with 70% ethanol and then enter the site to undertake any work that is required.
4. When leaving the site:
 - a. Remove coveralls by rolling them down from the top so that the external surfaces are rolled and contained inside the suit.
 - b. After removing the coveralls sanitise any tools or equipment with 70% ethanol. Either spray liberally or dip in a bucket with 70% ethanol solution.
 - c. Bag any used coveralls, sanitise, and dispose of in the garbage.
 - d. Change back into clean footwear and spray used footwear with 70% ethanol liberally before placing them in a plastic bag for transportation
 - e. Finally, spray hands with 70% ethanol before leaving the site.
5. Clean any vehicle/plant and equipment surfaces that may have come into contact with infected material. Use strong detergent to wash external surfaces and spray internal surfaces with 70% ethanol.