

Mana Island Biosecurity preparation

DOC administers Mana Island Scientific Reserve for the benefit of all New Zealanders. Its main purpose is to provide a refuge for some of New Zealand's most threatened species. One of the greatest threats to the species living on Mana is the introduction of plants, animals or diseases that do not naturally occur on the island.

The most common way that these threats can arrive is via people - in their gear, bags and clothing. It is possible that insects (e.g. Argentine ants or white-tailed spiders), lizards (e.g. rainbow skinks), rodents and diseases that affect birds or reptiles can be transported to islands on or in gear and equipment.

It is unlikely that you will bring a rodent or other pest to the island, but it's not impossible, so we appreciate your pre-trip preparation.

Absolutely everything you bring to the island **must** be inspected prior to getting on the boat (it is not sufficient to check your bags the night before).

Please watch this DOC biosecurity video before your visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXNOpfW7PPQ>

Conducting a biosecurity check

What to look for: Insects, plant material (including seeds) and soil, lizards and rodents. Please pay particular attention to:

Backpacks and bags – Inspect all pockets, compartments, zips and Velcro.



Acceptable: Tweezers are handy to remove seeds and vegetation from Velcro



Unacceptable: Seeds can easily hide away

Clothing – Inspect all items of clothing, including scarves, beanies and hats. Pay particular attention to socks, all pockets and any Velcro.

Footwear – Inspect all footwear for soil and plant material – this includes laces, folds and under the innersoles. Clean tread completely to remove chunks of soil and scrub clean. Try to achieve the cleanliness of a brand new shoe. Your footwear will be treated with the broad-spectrum disinfectant Sterigene before arrival to the island.



Acceptable: Innersole, tongue and tread completely free of soil



Unacceptable: Use an old nail or wooden skewer to reach all corners of the tread

Food – Use well sealed containers. Clear, plastic, airtight containers are ideal. These can be purchased relatively cheaply from The Warehouse. Chilly bins are also a good way to store food if they have a good airtight seal or are sealed with tape. Ensure the bung is in and tightened. Arriving on the island with open shopping bags is **unacceptable** and these will be sent back with the boat.



Acceptable: Completely sealed and easy to transport off the boat



Unacceptable: Open and accessible for pests

Field equipment – Must be completely free of soil, plant matter and animal pests. Any equipment that has previously been in contact with animals, soil or plant matter must be presented to the island ranger during your island biosecurity check to be treated with Sterigene (Sterigene is non-corrosive to metal).