

# Keep It Clean - The Easy Way to Fight Didymo

Between every river in New Zealand, all kayakers should CHECK, CLEAN and DRY. Here's how a carload of paddlers should treat their gear to help prevent the spread of Didymo – for less than the cost of a mince pie.

## CHECK

Remove any Didymo matter from your kayak and gear (throw this on land away from river).

## CLEAN

Put 10 or 20 litres of water in a tub (try the one you carry wet gear in).

Mix in 5% of household disinfectant.  
10 litre tub: use 2 large cups (500ml)  
20 litre tub: use 4 large cups (1 litre)

Drain boats and squeeze water out of wet gear as thoroughly as possible.

Soak all gear in the tub for at least a minute, squeeze excess solution back into the tub.

Pour remaining solution into kayak, slosh around to wet the entire inside (try to get spillage from cockpit back into the tub or next kayak).

Drain from first kayak into the next and so on until insides of all boats are wetted with solution.

Use remaining solution to sponge down the outside of kayaks and paddles.

Dispose of excess solution well away from river and if you have to rinse gear do so in tap water not the river water.

## DRY

If possible, leave your boat and gear to dry as an extra precaution. If you don't clean your gear you must dry all of it thoroughly and then keep it dry another 48 hours. Given the difficulty of completely drying wetsuit booties and other equipment, cleaning is preferred.

### TIPS

Buy disinfectant from a supermarket for about \$2 for a two litre bottle. If you use 500ml it will cost you about 50 cents every time you clean your gear. A small price to pay to protect our rivers!

Make a mark with a felt pen on the side of the washing tub to show the required water level for future treatments.

It's a good idea to mark 250 ml and 500ml on an old plastic bottle (e.g. clean one litre milk bottle) and use this to measure disinfectant.

Report suspected new finds of Didymo to 0800 809 966 and for more information visit [www.rivers.org.nz/article/Didymo](http://www.rivers.org.nz/article/Didymo)



New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association

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