



Chatham Islands

Biosecurity

Chatham Islands – Pest free

The isolation of the Chatham Islands means that it is largely pest-free. There are no rabbits, wasps, ferrets, stoats, weasels, ants, magpies, hares, deer...there are no introduced fish or water plants of any kind. There are very few introduced plants in the sea or on the land.

Chatham Islands – a national treasure

Famous for its “mega-herbs”, sweeping coastal dunes, seabirds, and pristine waterways, 29 of its 320 native plant species, 18 of its 73 native birds, 7 of its seaweeds and about 160 of its 800 native insect species are found nowhere else in the world (endemic).

Biosecurity risks

If unmanaged, many new pests and some established pests could ruin the fishing, eco-tourism and farming industries, degrade the water quality, prevent recreational access to some areas, cause the extinction of native plants and animals, and, by carrying disease, threaten human and domestic animal health.

Banned pests

Biosecurity staff are actively searching for plants, animals and diseases that are banned from the Chatham Islands. Over 100 pest plants and 48 pest animals present in New Zealand are banned from the Chatham Islands, and an additional 200 pest plants are listed as Unwanted Organisms under the National Pest Plant Accord.

Hitch-hikers

Hitch-hiker pests are the main Biosecurity threat. These little nasties are easy to transport. Seeds get caught up in your socks, or in the mud on your tramping boots, ants are attracted to the crumbs at the bottom of your backpack, and mice may nibble into any food on the night before you leave.

What you can do

Check, clean, dry

Check, clean and dry all gear prior to leaving for the Chatham Islands. Check, clean and dry all equipment and vehicles prior to travelling from Chatham Island to Pitt Island. This is especially important as there are fewer pests on Pitt Island. Check, clean, dry - make it your mantra. Good hygiene is all it takes.

Find out more

Visit www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/plants/accord and the Chatham Islands website: www.cic.govt.nz

See, act, report

If you see an unusual plant or animal, act by taking a photo or collecting it, and report it to us. If you are not sure, do it anyway. We don't mind false alarms!

New pests are reported on the islands each year. Finding pests before they get established gives us a chance of eradicating them.

Traveller's checklist

Use this checklist to help you to remember what to do *BEFORE* you visit the Chatham Islands.

1. All my outdoor footwear, woollen clothes and backpacks, are checked, clean and dry. I'm sure that they are insect, soil and seed free.
2. Any food that will be carried with me as cargo is recently purchased and unopened.
3. I've checked, cleaned and dried all equipment that I'll use in my course of work on the islands (eg nets, traps).
4. I'm not taking any animals (pets), any soil, landscaping materials (gravel, rocks) or plants with me to the islands.

Keep our islands unique!



chatham islands council

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