



Decontamination Protocols – General Precautions

Apply the following basic precautionary measures to control invasive species. These include:

- Avoid in-water work where possible.
- Choose equipment that is easily inspected and cleaned.
- Regularly inspect and clean field gear while working.
- Use dedicated equipment for a watershed or waterbody.
- Progress from the least to the most likely contaminated areas within a waterbody.
- Keep work areas clear of plants, sediment, or organisms.
- Clean gear at sampling locations before transporting.
- Conduct a Level 1 decontamination whenever you leave the water.
- Conduct a Level 2 decontamination between different water bodies, or as otherwise required.



New Zealand Mudsnails are very tiny and can get into small spaces.

Nets and other gear must be thoroughly cleaned of plants, sediments, and organisms.

Report any aquatic invasive species detections to:

1-888-933-9247 or
wdfw.wa.gov/ais/reporting/

Level 1 Decontamination Protocol

The basic steps in decontamination for all types of gear and equipment used in aquatic situations are Clean, Drain, and Rinse.

- **Clean** off any attached sediment, organisms or debris from surface areas that were in contact with the water body.
- **Drain** any raw water used to clean the equipment back into the water body from which it came.
- **Rinse** all surface areas with potable water.



The basic Level 1 cleaning equipment is a sturdy bristle brush, boot pick, and clean rinse water. If a Level 1 protocol cannot be done in the field, gear must be placed in a plastic bag or tote for transportation to a proper decontamination facility.

Level 2 Decontamination Protocol

The table below provides the minimum criteria for conducting a Level 2 decontamination and requires use of safety equipment.

Option	Solution/ Temp	Contact Time	Capture Rinse
Virkon Aquatic®	1% * 2%**	10 min 20 min	Yes
Hot Water	140°F/60°C+ 140°F/60°C++ 120°F/49°C++	15 sec 5 min 30 min	No
Freezing	14°F/-10°C	8 hours	N/A
Formula 409® (antibacterial)	100%	10 min	Yes

* 1% and 10 min for microorganisms
**2% and 20 min for larger organisms

+ Hard/non-porous materials
++ Porous materials

Decontamination information and protocols are available online at:

wdfw.wa.gov/ais