

## Personal decontamination

Personnel visiting properties may be required to complete personal decontamination and should resource themselves and their decontamination kit accordingly (refer to Appendices 2 and 3). The level of protection required varies, and is based on risk.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) contained in the kit may be for biosecurity or safety purposes or both. PPE must be fitted to each person, and the person must be trained and competent in its use.

If a biosecurity gate has been established personnel must comply with the guide [using a biosecurity gate](#).

### Preparation

1. Be briefed on task(s) to be conducted
2. Be authorised to enter the site
3. Discuss visit with site owner/manager including
  - a. task to be conducted and estimated arrival/departure times
  - b. site biosecurity requirements (e.g. farm biosecurity plan), safety issues and organic status
  - c. entry point and location of personal decontamination
4. Read relevant task procedures, risk assessments and chemical safety data sheets
5. Check kit and task resources are available to manage biosecurity and safety risks
  - a. Ensure PPE is fit for purpose – refer to description of PPE types (Appendix 1)
  - b. Check quantity and expiry dates - PPE kit (Appendix 2) and decontamination kit (Appendix 3)
  - c. Task resources – refer to task procedure

### Safety and communication

1. Park vehicle safely, preferably outside the site and away from affected/susceptible species
2. Notify your supervisor or designated contact of arrival
3. Contact owner/manager – notify of arrival, discuss activities, any biosecurity requirements and safety

### Set up

1. Identify and mark entry/exit line or use existing line/gate to delineate clean (non-contaminated) and dirty (potential contaminated) zones – refer to Figure 1
2. Lay out resources, positioning items for accessibility on clean side
3. Add water to tubs (footbath, hand wash basin and gross contamination tub, if used) and make up decontamination solution in foot bath and spray bottle (if required)
4. Prepare resources to be taken on site, ensuring they are able to be decontaminated off (if not used) e.g. contained in a plastic zip lock bag

### Put on PPE

After removing shoes and excess clothing, wash your hands, put on PPE appropriate to the task and in accordance with task risk assessment, in the following order:

1. overalls
2. footwear – ensure overalls over boots
3. mask/respiratory device – fit check
4. eyewear – fit check
5. overall's hood on and zipped up
6. gloves - if 2 pairs required based on risk, impervious pair to be taped to sleeves to create seal
7. head protection - if required e.g. hard hat or sun hat
8. 'buddy' check correct fitting of PPE

### Enter and work on site

1. Only take required resources on site e.g. phone/camera, drinking water, recording devices
2. Apply decontamination solution to boots (i.e. spray or use footbath)
3. While on site, ensure PPE is worn correctly and replaced promptly if damaged. Disinfection may be required prior to replacing item, e.g. wash hands before replacing gloves.

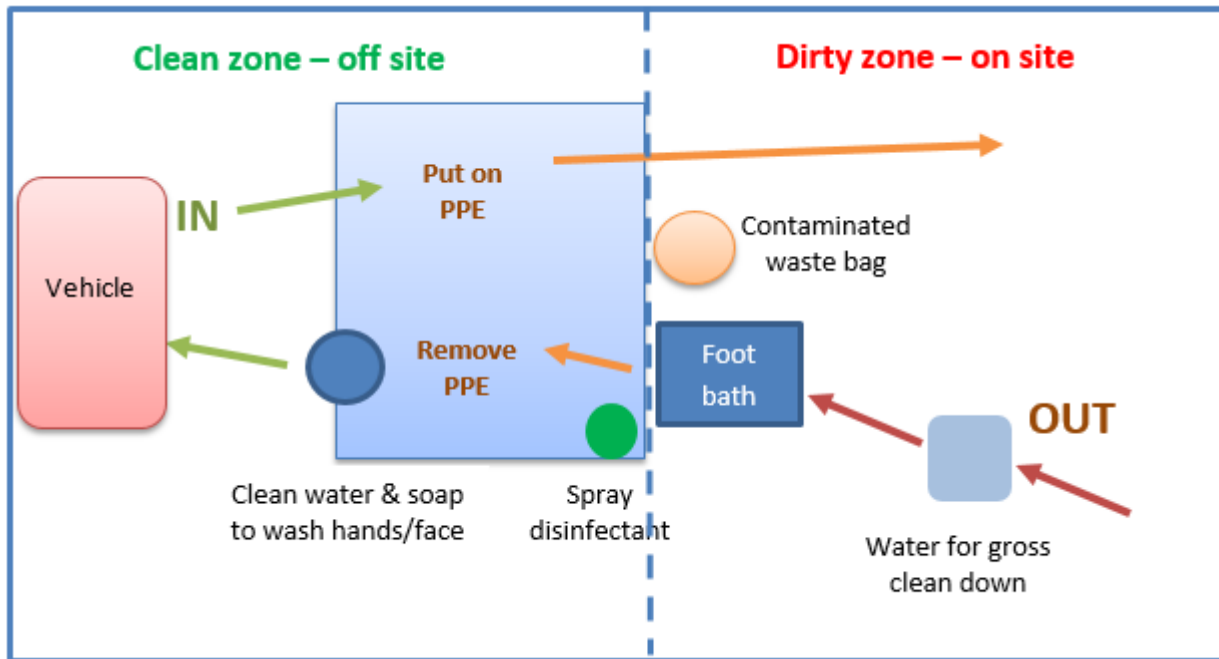


Figure 1: Example of site entry/exit point

## On exit, remove gross contamination

1. Use hose or tub of water to clean boots – a brush or screwdriver may assist cleaning treads
2. Decontaminate outer gloves

## Decontaminate or dispose of resources

1. Place any waste in contaminated waste bag
2. Decontaminate resources, then place on tarp
3. Empty gross contamination tub (if not required further) and decontaminate onto tarp

## Remove PPE

1. Decontaminate footwear in footbath and step onto tarp
2. Remove PPE in the following order, minimising contact with contaminated surfaces, then decontaminate or dispose:
  - a) outer gloves (if worn) then spray inner gloves with decontamination solution
  - b) head protection
  - c) overalls – turn overalls inside out to contain contamination
  - d) footwear
  - e) eye protection
  - f) mask/respirator
  - g) inner gloves
3. Check all waste disposed correctly
4. Wash hands and face with household soap to remove all contamination
5. Get dressed

## Waste

1. Seal waste bags, decontaminate, and place inside a second bag, seal and spray again
2. Empty footbath – refer to safety data sheet or risk assessment for disposal options

## Clean up site

1. Decontaminate both sides of tarp or dispose of it
2. Repack resources – separate into clean/unused items and decontaminated waste/wet items
3. Apply decontamination solution to work area
4. Decontaminate vehicle (wheels and arches) if near entry/exit point

## Communication

1. Notify owner/manager of your departure
2. Notify your supervisor or designated contact of your departure

## After departure

1. Clean vehicle at the end of the day (unless required more frequently)
2. Copy records contained in decontaminated bags and dispose of originals as contaminated waste
3. Ensure completion of maintenance and usage forms for non-disposable equipment e.g. PPE
4. Ensure correct disposal of waste
5. Restock kits
6. Shower
7. Launder clothes
8. Do not come in contact with susceptible species (e.g. plants or animals) for the designated period

## Safety

Risks to personnel involved in the decontamination process include:

- [Aggressive stakeholders](#)
- [Fatigue](#)
- [Manual handling](#)
- [Monitoring location of field personnel](#)
- [Property visits](#)
- [Remote and isolated work](#)
- [Use of personal protective equipment](#)

Additional risks related to the task/activity being conducted are detailed in the task documents.

## Further information

- Risk assessment – [Maintaining biosecurity entering and exiting properties](#)
- [Assessment checklist – Personal decontamination](#)
- Suit up! PPE for veterinarians video - <http://www.ava.com.au/suit-up>
- [Taking Off Protective Gloves, Beak Method](#) – YouTube video
- AVA – [Resource 6 – High risk site visit checklist](#)

## Appendix 1 – Personal protective equipment types

Type	Details
Footwear	Suitable for task, covers foot, non-slip, waterproof or disposable. If reusing ensure sole can be easily cleaned. E.g. gumboots, boot covers, disposable sneakers.
Overalls	Preferably disposable (with a hood) that are suitable for the pest/disease and chemicals in use. High risk hazardous situations may require a barrier to toxic particles including aerosol hazards. Types 5/6 have particle protection with limited splash protection. Types 3/4 are spray and liquid (e.g. blood, body fluids) resistant. Non rated overalls may be suitable for plant pathogens to prevent transfer by mechanical means.
Gloves	Correct size and typically 2 types – one for sensitive touch (e.g. latex/nitrile) and other for more demanding tasks including puncture and/or cut resistant gloves. Two different coloured nitrile/latex gloves (e.g. blue under cream) worn together enables easy checking for cuts and punctures.
Respirator - disposable	Preferred is P2/N95 dome shaped mask that must have 2 adjustable straps. Only a quality brand should be used. Where strenuous activity is anticipated the mask should be fitted with a relief valve. The non-valve type is suitable for people who may be infectious themselves.
Respirator – non-disposable	Negative or positive pressure, non-disposable (usually). Half and full face respirators (non-powered = negative pressure) can provide P2 (half face) or P3 (full face) protection with appropriate filters. Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) can provide P1, P2 or P3 protection depending on the combination of filters, head piece and blower capacity. P1 – Particulate filter efficiency > 80% – protects against mechanically generated particles P2 – Particulate filter efficiency > 94% – protects against mechanically or thermally generated particles P3 - Particulate filter efficiency > 99.95% – protects against highly toxic or highly irritant particulates
Eye protection	For infection control and/or chemical splashes. Goggles (without vents) offer maximum protection from dust, medium flying particles, aerosol and splashes. Safety glasses and face shields protect against splashes. P3 respirator equipment will offer protection which may or may not be suitable for the task. Note: prescription glasses are not a replacement for safety eyewear.
Hearing protection	For situations where noise may be an issue e.g. piggeries. Plugs are preferable as they are disposable.
Other	Sunscreen should be 30+ (and replaced when it expires) Hat for sun protection

## Appendix 2 – Personal protective equipment kit (to be fit tested by user)

Resource	Min. Qty	Audit					
Gloves – disposable, latex/nitrile	Box (100)						
Gloves – work, protect against cut injury (preferably long cuffed)	2						
Overalls disposable type 5/6	2						
Overalls disposable type 3/4	2						
P2 disposable face masks	Box (10)						
Respirator to suit individual	1						
Respirator canisters/filters	2-4						
Eyewear goggles, unvented	1						
Footwear gumboots (& extra socks)	1						
Boot covers (with soles)	optional						
Hat	1						
Sunscreen – 30+	1						
Personal name tag	1						

## Appendix 3 – Decontamination kit

Resource	Min. Qty	Audit					
Groundsheet large (e.g. tarp)	1						
Water container – 5-10L, full	2						
Empty container to collect liquid disinfectant waste – 10L (or use water container)	1						
Plastic tub as footbath	1						
Plastic bucket	2						
Stiff brush to clean boots	1						
Nail brush	1						
Hoof pick or screwdriver	1						
Measuring cup/syringe	1						
Hand spray 500ml	1						
Funnel	1						
Paper towel - roll	1						
Cloths e.g. Chux	10						
Disinfectant (according to risk)** e.g. commercial, hibitane							
Hand soap – pump pack	1						
First aid kit ** (inc. waterproof dressings)	1						
Sunscreen 30+ **	1						
Sticky labels	20						
Pencils	5						
Marker pen – permanent	2						
Zip lock bags – various sizes to fit phone, camera, paperwork	10						
Contaminated waste bags	25						
Garbage bags	10						
Sharps container – contaminated waste	1						
Clipboard	1						
Scissors &/or Stanley knife	1						
Notebook	1						
Plastic ties – various sizes	50						
Fabric tape ~50mm x 15m	1						
Hazard tape	1						
Quarantine signs	10						
AUSVETPLAN/PLANTPLAN ** Decontamination manual – for disinfectants mixing rates							
Safety Data Sheets - for all substances **							
Small laminated card with emergency phone numbers **							
Data collection forms **	5						
Quarantine forms **	5						
Detention forms **	5						
Other signage – e.g. hazard							
Inventory list							

\*\* has expiry date or check for updates required