

# Fact Sheet 3

## On-site vehicle and machinery cleaning



Vehicle and machinery surfaces often collect soil and plant debris which can carry plant pests, such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, viroids, nematodes, and insects (and insect eggs), and weed seeds. **Cleaning of vehicles and machinery is a big step towards minimising risk from plant pests and diseases being introduced on to your property and spreading to other regions.**

### When developing a cleaning area on farm....

- **Location**  
Use an open area close to property entrances and located as far as possible from growing areas.
- **Drainage**  
A sump or waste water collection area is recommended for drainage of water, soil and plant debris.
- **Size**  
Ensure there is enough room for large machines and vehicles to enter and move around.
- **Cleaning equipment**  
Dedicated high pressure hoses or compressed air cleaners will make the cleaning process more effective.
- **Surface**  
Concrete or bitumen is ideal. A grassed surface is not recommended due to the potential for some pests to incubate in soil and on plant matter.
- **Signage**  
Clean-down areas should be signposted and directions provided from the property entrance to the clean-down facility. This will ensure that visitors are aware of the clean-down facility and can report to it on arrival.

### Step 1: Cleaning

To stop pest spread between growing areas use a portable high pressure water hose or air compressor to clean vehicles, machinery and farm equipment before moving to a new area. Clean all incoming and outgoing vehicles and machinery using a high pressure water hose or compressed air to remove any plant debris and soil. Focus on tyre treads and wheel arches.

### Step 2: Decontaminate

Apply a decontaminant solution to all vehicle surfaces where soil and plant material may stick. Decontaminant solutions include should be used according to product label recommendations.

### Step 3: Rinse the cleaning area

Before moving the vehicle, use a high pressure water hose on the cleaning area to make sure debris is captured in the run-off or sump area. Before moving the vehicle away from the cleaning area, allow it to dry thoroughly to lessen the amount of dirt picked up by tyre treads.

**For further information contact:**  
Tomatoes New Zealand Inc.  
[www.tomatoesnz.co.nz](http://www.tomatoesnz.co.nz)

If you see any unusual pests or plant symptoms, call the

**MPI EXOTIC PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE**  
**0800 80 99 66**