



FOR AUSTRALIAN WINE PERSONNEL TRAVELLING OVERSEAS

Is biosecurity something you consider when planning and packing for an overseas trip?

If you are visiting vineyards overseas and you plan to walk down vine rows or adjacent to vines, you need to be aware that you could inadvertently pick up pests, diseases and weeds on your footwear, clothing and any bags you are carrying.

Australia is lucky not to have many of the devastating plant pests and diseases currently affecting vineyards overseas. You have an important role as a traveler to take precautions during your trip and upon return, to ensure you help protect our grape and wine industries.

If you walk into Australian vineyards as part of your work or home life, familiarise yourself with these tips to minimise your chance of bringing back grape phylloxera or exotic plant pests from your travels. And as always, don't bring back into Australia any soil or vine material from an overseas vineyard.

If you walk into vineyards as part of your work or home life and you're heading overseas, familiarise yourself with these tips to minimise your chance of bringing grape phylloxera or exotic plant pests back from your travels.

BEST PRACTICE TIPS: Sacrifice it all

Best practice is to sacrifice any footwear and clothing worn overseas down vine rows or adjacent to vines and any bags such as backpacks you are carrying with you into vineyards. This means not bringing these items back into Australia.

Before you leave for overseas:

- Pack multiple jumbo snap lock bags or garbage bags you can secure your footwear and clothing in between vineyard visits overseas to avoid contaminating the rest of your luggage.
- Pack a day pack you designate for vineyard visits.

Footwear:

- Pack an old pair of vineyard boots; OR
- Pack footwear you don't wear in vineyards in Australia; OR
- Buy new footwear before you go, solely for vineyard use.

Clothing:

- Pack clothing (including hats) you designate for vineyard visits.

While overseas:

- After each vineyard visit, shake your clothing, boots and daypack well to dislodge any pests and then double-bag them. Do this away from the rest of your luggage.

Prior to returning to Australia:

- Discard the bag(s) containing the footwear, clothing and daypack that you have worn/used overseas in vineyards or adjacent to vines.

While we recognise there are cost implications associated with sacrificing your footwear, clothing and daypack, this option is considered best practice because it not only reduces the likelihood of you bringing back pests that could impact Australian vineyards, but also hitchhiker pests which may be detrimental to other agricultural industries.

In addition, we recognise that the footwear disinfection procedure outlined in the 'Alternative tips' section cannot be assumed as effective against pests other than grape phylloxera. And, that efficacy of the clothing/daypack disinfection procedure cannot be validated given variances in water and drier temperatures.

ALTERNATIVE TIPS: Disinfest overseas

If you don't want to sacrifice the footwear, clothing and daypack you intend to wear/use down vine rows or adjacent to vines overseas, you are advised to adhere to the following steps to minimise the chances of bringing back grape phylloxera or exotic plant pests from your travels.

Before you leave for overseas:

- Pack multiple jumbo snap lock bags or garbage bags you can secure your footwear and clothing in between vineyard visits overseas to avoid contaminating the rest of your luggage.

- Pack clothing that is suitable for hot laundering e.g. polar fleece and caps, as opposed to special scarves, beanies and other clothing items of value.
- Pack a day pack you designate for vineyard visits if you need one.

While overseas:

- After each vineyard visit, shake your clothing, boots and daypack well to dislodge any pests and then double-bag them. Do this away from the rest of your luggage.

Prior to returning to Australia:

- *Look out for hitchhiker pests:* carefully open the bags housing your footwear, clothing and daypack and take note of any insects that might escape. Do not allow them to get into the remainder of your luggage; AND
- *Discard bags:* discard the jumbo snap lock or garbage bags that you have used to bag the footwear, clothing and daypack in between vineyard visits.

For Footwear

- *Clean your footwear:* ensure you remove all soil and plant material from your footwear; paying special attention to the tread; AND
- *Sterilise your footwear for grape phylloxera:* immerse your footwear in a 2% sodium hypochlorite solution for 60 seconds (if using a bleach product like White King that is 40g/L or 4% active sodium hypochlorite, use 1 part bleach to one part water).

Note: this disinfection treatment can only be assumed effective for grape phylloxera.

For Clothing and Daypack

- *Launder your double-bagged clothing and daypack:* wash in a washing machine on the highest temperature setting for the longest time, followed by tumble drying on the highest heat setting until fully dried; AND
- *Re-bag:* Once dried, place your laundered clothing and daypack back into a new jumbo snap lock or garbage bag prior to placing into your luggage.

Note: as the temperatures of the water and drier will vary, the efficacy of the laundering cannot be validated, however, laundering is considered the most appropriate action for clothing and the daypack given current knowledge.

Note: to further reduce the biosecurity risk from clothing and your daypack, don't wear or use the laundered items in an Australian vineyard within three weeks of returning.

Upon entry into Australia: On your incoming passenger card, answer 'yes' that you have been in contact with farms in the past 30 days and have your footwear ready to show a biosecurity inspector at customs if required

For further biosecurity information visit www.vinehealth.com.au or contact Vinehealth Australia on (08) 8273 0550.

This factsheet has been reviewed by Liz Riley of Vitibit Pty Ltd.