



Biosecurity Guidelines

Why do Motuihe Island visitors need to check their gear:

Pest animals and plants can invade pest free Motuihe Island by stowing away on vessels or in their footwear or gear.

Rats can squeeze through a 12 mm gap and mice can squeeze through a 7 mm gap. Insects could hide in their bags, and weeds, seeds and soil could cling to their clothing and shoes.

Pests threaten New Zealand's native wildlife.

- Rats eat birds, eggs, reptiles and insects
- Mice prey on insects and eat small birds and reptiles
- Argentine ants can reach large numbers and have a big appetite killing our native insects, skinks, geckos and baby birds
- Plague skinks compete with native lizards and other animals for food and habitat and have displaced our native skinks on the mainland
- Soil can carry plant diseases such as kauri dieback
- Weed seeds can become a weed forest and smother native plants

Biosecurity Checklist

Before you leave the mainland, check and clean your gear

- Check that your gear is free of rats, mice, ants and skinks - especially camping gear which has ideal places for them to hide when stored. It is critical that all tent pegs and the bags that they come in are all cleaned, washed, dried etc. before coming to the island. Tents are a huge risk, please remove from its bag and wipe down the external floor and then turn the tent inside out and make sure that all grass, seeds etc. are removed. Then repack it and tie up the ends of the bag.)
- Take extra care to clean gear if you have Argentine ants or plague skinks where you live
- Clean clothing, footwear and camping gear, removing soil and seeds before and after each trip
- Look out for cleaning stations at the pier and scrub your shoes before boarding.
- Do not bring your pets
- Do not take your personal cultivation tools (spades shovels etc.) unless they have been scrupulously cleaned
- Do not take power tools such as chainsaws, weed whippers, scrub bars, motor mowers unless they have been dismantled and cleaned. YOU WILL BE CHALLENGED IF YOU ARE CARRYING SUCH EQUIPMENT
- Under no circumstances take plant and or soil material onto the island, YOU WILL BE CHALLENGED ON THIS

Pack properly

- Pack food in sealed containers to avoid attracting rodents.
- No open bags or supermarket bags.

If you find a pest

- On the mainland: Get rid of the pest and clean your gear again.
- On a commercial boat: Tell the crew what you have found and where it is.
- On your own boat or kayak: Destroy the pest – don't throw them overboard alive.
- On the island: Report sightings to the DOC conservation emergency hotline **0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468)**

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF “LEAVE NO TRACE”

1. Plan ahead and prepare

Plan ahead by considering your goals and those of your group. Know before you go – get local information, skills and gear you need to make your trip a success

2. Travel and camp on durable ground

Some areas are more fragile than others. Choose to camp and travel on the most durable surface you can, the best ones are tracks, gravel, snow and most grasses. Impacts on fragile natural features caused by travel and camping can take many years to heal. (Refer to DOC website for [Motuihe Island campsites](#))

3. Dispose of waste properly

Pack it in, pack it out. As users of the outdoors we all have a responsibility to clean up after ourselves. Rubbish and toilet waste are unsightly and can introduce unwanted organisms into the environment. Lead by example – if you see rubbish, pick it up. (Note: No rubbish facilities available on Motuihe Island)

4. Leave what you find

People visit natural areas for many reasons; such as exploring nature's mysteries and surprises. When we leave natural objects and artefacts as we found them, we pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow. Many sites of spiritual and cultural significance to Māori are interwoven with the natural environment

5. Minimise the effects of fire

Local regulations and conditions change depending on time of year and location. Lightweight stoves, fire pans and mounds mean campfires are no longer essential for cooking or comfort. Wildfires are often caused by carelessness and the natural appearance of many recreation sites has been damaged by campfires, visual scarring and stripping vegetation for firewood. Where fires are permitted, keep them small and make sure it's out by dousing with water and checking the ashes (Note: Open fires/bbqs are not permitted on Motuihe Island)

6. Respect wildlife and farm animals

Know when animals are particularly vulnerable, such as breeding times, and change your behaviour with them by observing from a distance. Avoid feeding animals either deliberately or accidentally by leaving food or rubbish lying around. Farming is a big part of New Zealand's culture and economy, know how to move through farms without disturbing farm animals

7. Be considerate of others

We all go into the outdoors for different reasons, so we must share. Think about others, respect their activities and what they might be trying to get out of their recreational experience