

Stop the freshwater gold clam



The freshwater gold clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) is a small shellfish that reproduces rapidly and can clog water pipes and possibly overrun native species.

This overseas clam was first found in New Zealand in Waikato River in May 2023. Help stop its spread.



Report any sightings

Adult clams are 2 to 3cm long and are typically dirty white, yellow or tan in colour. They have an obvious ribbed texture on the outside of the shell.

They're found in freshwater and estuaries or brackish waters, often buried in large clumps with some of the shell exposed.

If you find freshwater gold clam:

- note the location
- take a photo if possible – of the clams and also the area around them
- contact Biosecurity New Zealand on **0800 80 99 66**
- or complete the online form at <https://report.mpi.govt.nz/>

Information is at:
www.biosecurity.govt.nz/clam

Check Clean Dry

To stop spread of this clam, follow these steps before moving to another location at a river or lake, or to another river or lake.

Check

- Remove anything visible including clams, weed or mud. Drain all water.
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Clean

- Wash down your gear and craft with tap-water onto grass, beside the river or lake or at home - not into a stormwater drain system. This will flush off clams that can be too small to be seen.
 - For gear made of absorbent materials (for example clothing, wetsuit), which will stay wet longer, you should do a hot wash (above 45 degrees) or pop it in a freezer until solid.
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Dry

- Allow gear to dry to touch, inside and out, and then leave it to dry for at least 5 days before going back in a river or lake.
- Dry areas inside the watercraft where water has pooled, for example with an old towel, and then leave the craft to dry for at least five days. The hull of a watercraft will dry when towed.

