

# Don't let Adirondack Rivers get Slimed!



## **What is Didymo?** *Didymosphenia geminata*

Didymo, or “rock snot,” is an invasive algae that has infested waters in several western states, and has recently been found in Vermont and Quebec rivers. It forms mats on the river bottom that are barriers to native organisms (caddis, mayflies and stoneflies). As a result, fish populations decline, and fishing becomes difficult.

Didymo is not considered a significant risk to human health.

## **Didymo spreads easily!**

Microscopic cells absorb into and adhere to equipment, clothing, boats, or any other damp item. If these items are not cleaned and dried completely, the algae can live for months and spread to other water bodies the next time they are submerged.

## **How can I tell if I see Didymo ?**

Didymo can be distinguished from other species of algae by:

- Color - beige / brown / white but not green.
- Touch - feels like wet wool rather than slimy
- Strength - securely attaches to stones and does not fall apart when rubbed between your fingers

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Find more information and pictures at:  
[www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)

# Prevent the spread of Didymo, fish diseases, and other invasive species

If you move gear between waterways, you must  
**Check, Clean, Dry.**

**CHECK**➤ Before you leave a river or lake, check gear for clumps of algae or sediment; leave it at the site. Do not wash debris down the drain later!

**CLEAN**➤ Choose the treatment best suited for your gear and situation:

**Detergent:** soak in dish detergent or antiseptic soap for at least 1 minute. Use  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups soap per gallon of **hot** water (140°); OR

**Bleach:** soak for at least one minute in 2% household bleach (one cup added to 2.5 gallons of water);

**Absorbent items:** Felt-soled waders, for example, require longer soaking times (40 minutes) to be completely disinfected.

**DRY**➤ Items must be *completely dry* to the touch, inside and out, then left to dry for another 48 hours. Absorbent items require longer drying times. Slightly moist didymo can survive for months.

**Freezing an item** solid will also kill didymo.



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