



# Guidance for cleaning used vehicles

You will need to thoroughly clean used vehicles to ensure all biosecurity risk material is removed. While a valet service may make the vehicle look presentable, it doesn't ensure the car will meet the required outcome of being clean and free of biosecurity contaminants and regulated pests when it arrives in New Zealand.

Below are some examples of frequently contaminated areas of a vehicle and some tips to ensure your vehicle will be compliant after cleaning has been carried out.

## What to use to clean used vehicles

TO REMOVE:	USE:
Animal excrement or soil	High-pressure hose on exterior.
Insects, snails and spiders	Physically remove. Spray a strong residual insecticide over surrounding areas especially where visibility of all components and parts is poor. If you can see many insects or spiders, fumigation or heat treatment should be carried out in accordance with <b>Approved Biosecurity Treatments</b> .
Egg masses	Physically remove all traces by hand.
Plant material	If found in the interior, use high-pressure air and/or a vacuum cleaner. If the plant material is on the exterior, a high-pressure hose or water blaster can be used to dislodge the contamination.
Seeds	Hand pick seeds off with sticky tape or equivalent. Loose seeds can be vacuumed from interior or hosed off exterior.

## Vehicle interior

Clean interior areas of a vehicle including the boot/trunk, between and under car seats, ceiling areas, floor surfaces, side panels, all compartments, the spare tyre and storage area.



Look for egg masses and insects on spare tyre. Vacuum tyre tray.



Vacuum under and between car seats. Lift rear car seats unless bolted.



Vacuum the boot/trunk to remove any contamination.

**Note:** If personal effects are accompanying a vehicle, you need to declare and package them separately as MPI Inspectors must be able to verify the cleanliness of the vehicle on arrival. Any associated unloading or additional inspection costs will be the responsibility of the importer.

You can find more information on [importing household goods as person effects here](#).



## Vehicle exterior

Clean all exterior surfaces including bumpers, grates, hubcaps, mud guards, trays, tyres and wheels, roof racks, rails and the whole underside of vehicle.



Remove hubcap, check for contamination, especially egg masses around tyre and wheel area.



A light road film on the wheel is acceptable, but more than that must be removed.



Look for egg masses, insects and spider webbing around the bumper and grates.



Remove any plant material or pooled water from the vehicle.



Thoroughly check mudguards, tyres and wheel arches. Water blast if required.



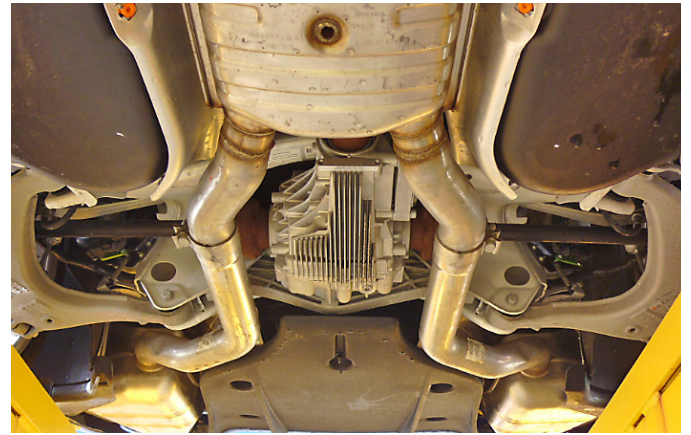
If mud guards are covered in felt, thoroughly scrub or water blast.



# Vehicle underside

Look for animals such as insects, snails, snakes, and spiders; and for plant material including seeds, and soil.

Use a bright light to inspect the vehicle underside. A high-pressure water hose can help clean or flush out what you may not be able to see.



# Motor area

Clean motor area including in and around motor, crevices and bonnet/hood area. Use a flashlight/torch where required.



Remove contamination around bonnet/hood and grilles.



Wipe down surfaces that may contain plant material, seeds, and soil.



Look in all corners, crevices and hinges.



Look out for reptiles and snakes. They are attracted to warmth and confined spaces such as motors.



If the underside of the bonnet/hood is covered in felt, scrub or water blast to remove plant material/seeds.

# Additional notes

4-wheel drive vehicles are designed to be driven in conditions which will increase the likelihood of contamination. Some additional areas to check are:

- **Box-shaped tubes with drain holes** – hold mud and organic matter.
- **Underbody protection plates (Bash plates)** – hold mud, soil or other organic matter.
- **Head and taillights** – make sure no water is pooling inside the plastic covers.



# Vehicle inspection guide checklist

Below is a checklist to follow to ensure all areas of the car have been cleaned prior to importation.

STEP	AREA TO INSPECT AND CLEAN	COMPLETE ✓
1	Clean the grille and front of vehicle.	
2	Clean across and under the bonnet/hood and air vents.	
3	Clean front wheel, mud guards and wheel arch.	
4	Clean mirrors and window ledges.	
5	Clean across and around the roof including roof rails.	
6	Clean back wheel, mud guards and wheel arch.	
7	Clean back bumper area.	
8	Repeat the entire process on the other side of the vehicle.	
9	Open bonnet/hood and thoroughly clean motor area. Use a bright light/torch to make sure all motor crevices have been cleaned.	
10	Clean all interior areas of vehicle, including all compartments, under carpet if loose, under mats, between and under the seats.	
11	Clean the underside of vehicle.	
12	Keep your vehicle(s) in a place where it won't be re-contaminated before it is loaded onto a vessel or into a container for export.	