

Biosecurity guidelines

for visitors to the Arctic



Photo: ilovegreenland

Help protect the Arctic Environment

The Arctic remains one of the most pristine natural environments in the world. AECO's biosecurity guidelines aim to minimize the risk of future introductions of non-native species to the Arctic.



Photo: Bjorn Erik Sandbakk

Non-native species can spread to the Arctic through our activities there. By following a few simple steps in these guidelines you can help prevent this (see opposite page).



Photo: Robert Lalasz/The Nature Conservancy

If you notice organic matter on boots, clothing or gear, make sure to clean it off.

Be a responsible visitor

One of the main ways non-native species can spread to the Arctic is by our activities there. Seeds, micro-organisms, and even insects can hitchhike to the Arctic on footwear, attached to clothing, or in bags that have been used in the outdoors previously. By following a few simple steps, you can ensure that your visit won't lead to non-native species being introduced to the Arctic.

Before leaving home

Examine and clean clothes, footwear, and bags thoroughly

Examine and clean all clothing, including pockets, seams, Velcro fasteners, and footwear soles for dirt and organic material. Use a vacuum cleaner, brushes, and water where necessary to ensure all seeds and dirt have been removed. This is especially important if you have used your clothing and equipment previously in parklands or rural settings, or other polar regions.

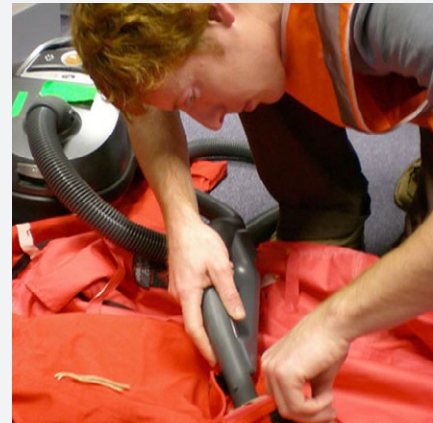


Photo: Dana Bergstrom - Australian Antarctic Division

Upon arrival

Be biosecurity aware

1. Follow the biosecurity procedures on your expedition. This is especially important if you are moving between distinct geographic regions (e.g. between eastern and western Svalbard, Svalbard and Greenland or Greenland and Canada) but also when moving between distinct landing sites.
2. Watch your step. If you notice organic matter on boots, clothing or gear, make sure to clean it off before leaving a site and use the disinfectant wash between visits. Leave disinfectant to dry between landings.
3. Spread the word. Share this information with others and help protect the Arctic environment.



Photo: IAATO.org

Non-native species – a potential threat to the Arctic environment

Non-native species represent a threat to biodiversity globally as they can cause serious negative impacts to the natural environment. These are species that are introduced to regions where they are not normally found as a result of human activity. Increasing visitation in the Arctic means a greater chance of more non-native species introductions.