

# BC WNS Decontamination Protocol

April 2024

WLRS mandy.kellner@gov.bc.ca

Are you  
• entering a cave or mine  
at any time of year?

YES

NO

Do not use gear from a Pd/WNS+ region outside of BC (refer to CWHC/USFWS mapping).  
  
Within BC, decontaminate fully between each cave or mine site. Follow CWHC 2024 decontamination protocols even if < 10 km apart.

Are you  
• catching / handling bats at  
any time of year?

YES

NO

Do not use gear from a Pd/WNS+ region outside of BC.  
  
Wear PPE and decontaminate fully between each capture / handling / roost site following CWHC 2024 and CWHC Summer Activity protocols.

YES

Are you  
• working outside at a known or suspected roost with easy access (e.g., bat box, bridge, base of rock wall, outside of a mine) ?

YES

NO

Are you  
• working indoors or outdoors at a site with challenging access (e.g., researchers or pest control operators working in sites requiring crawling, brushing against surfaces)?

## Plan ahead:

- Wear easy-to-clean footwear or disposable boot covers
- Wear nitrile gloves
- Have accessible decontamination supplies and garbage bags/bins to contain "dirty" materials until they can be decontaminated

## Clean and decontaminate "dirty" surfaces upon leaving each site:

- brush off dirt from any material that contacted the site ("dirty" surfaces)
- take off boot covers then follow de-gloving procedures and dispose of gloves / boot covers
- decontaminate all "dirty" surfaces (e.g., soles of shoes if you did not wear boot covers, the brush you used) with
  - full submersion in 55+C hot water for > 5 min OR
  - submersion or thorough spritzing with
    - 10 % bleach solution OR
    - 50-70% isopropyl alcohol OR
    - 3 % hydrogen peroxide OR
    - other approved antifungal
      - (see CWHC 2024 and USGS 2024).



If in doubt, be conservative and decontaminate!

## CWHC 2024

[https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/bat\\_health/WNS%20Decontamination%20protocol%20\(English\)%2020240306.pdf](https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/bat_health/WNS%20Decontamination%20protocol%20(English)%2020240306.pdf)

## CWHC Summer Activities

[https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/bat\\_health/Recommendations%20for%20decontamination%20during%20summer%20activities%20\(English\)%2020240306](https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/bat_health/Recommendations%20for%20decontamination%20during%20summer%20activities%20(English)%2020240306)

## USGS 2024

<https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/prod-is-cms-assets/wns/prod/669f6310-dd5e-11ee-9008-8dbb177a1768-March2024-%20revised%20WNS%20Decon%20Protocol%20-%20Final.pdf>

