



Environment and Heritage Expertise

Technical Guideline

# TG 0875.24 – Phytophthora

**Version:** 1.0.

**Date:** 28 August 2025.

**Status:** Final.

**Document ID:** SAWG-ENV-0875.24

**Confidentiality:** OFFICIAL



**Government of  
South Australia**

© 2025 SA Water Corporation. All rights reserved. This document may contain confidential information of SA Water Corporation. Disclosure or dissemination to unauthorised individuals is strictly prohibited. Uncontrolled when printed or downloaded.

## Issue & version number

Only the current version of the Technical Standard should be used. Earlier versions of this Technical Standard are superseded and must not be used.

This Technical Standard document is not controlled when printed or downloaded. Only online versions from the SA Water website may be used.

## Copyright and intellectual property

© SA Water. All rights reserved.

This Technical Standard has been produced by the South Australian Water Corporation (SA Water). SA Water owns the copyright to all material produced by SA Water.

No part of this Technical Standard may be reproduced, copied or transmitted in any form or by any means, except with the express written consent of SA Water.

Where any material is extracted from this Technical Standard, which may occur only with express written consent of SA Water, that material must be attributed to SA Water as:  
© SA Water.

## Intellectual property

Where any material is extracted from this Technical Standard, which may occur only with express written consent of SA Water, that material must be attributed to SA Water as:  
© SA Water.

Unless indicated expressly to the contrary, SA Water (and/or any third-party licensors of SA Water) own the copyright and other intellectual property rights, which is contained in the text, graphics, information, designs, data and other content in this Technical Standard.

This Technical Standard may not, without consent in writing from SA Water, or otherwise except to the extent permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), be reproduced for any purpose, including particularly: purposes associated with government operational activities, commercial activity, or education.

SA Water is committed to upholding the rights of owners of copyright and intellectual property, and SA Water will make every effort to contact copyright owners and request permission to reproduce and make available copyright material. If you believe that any content in this Technical Standard may infringe your copyright or other intellectual property rights, please contact us at [legal@sawater.com.au](mailto:legal@sawater.com.au) and we will investigate the position, and if appropriate, endeavour to correct the situation.

If you have access to this Technical Standard and the Technical Standard is used by you or any other entity, for purposes other than to progress SA Water's statutory functions, you could be infringing SA Water's copyright, and or SA Water's intellectual property, and you may face penalties under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), otherwise under law, or under any other policy of SA Water or the South Australian Government that may apply.

## Technical Standards are only applicable for intended use

This Technical Standard may be used by only: SA Water staff, SA Water contractors and persons expressly authorised in writing by SA Water to do so.

This Technical Standard may be used only for application to progress activities associated with SA Water's statutory functions described particularly within the *Water Industry Act 2012* (SA), the *Water Industry Regulations 2012* (SA) and the *South Australian Water Corporation Act 1994* (SA). This Technical Standard may not be used for any other activity outside of the scope of the functions described in that legislation.

If you have access to this Technical Standard, and the Technical Standard is used by you or any other entity, for purposes or activity other than to progress SA Water's statutory functions, the Technical Standard may not be applicable to that other purpose or activity, in which you or that other entity intend to engage, and you could be misinterpreting the contents and you may not correctly apply the Technical Standard. This may result in loss or damage to you, the entity or to other parties, and must be avoided.

This Technical Standard has been prepared to address general and not particular circumstances. This Technical Standard is intended to be used in conjunction with designs and project instructions that are prepared in response to particular circumstances and toward particular objectives. Any user of this Technical Standard must ensure, by independent verification, that the application of the Technical Standard is suitable to any design for any particular project, and to ensure that the Technical Standard is in accordance with the latest relevant Australian standards, legislation, regulations and codes and also with any relevant and applicable policy.

SA Water does its best to provide accurate and up-to-date information in the Technical Standards we prepare, but you should use your own skill and judgement before you rely on it. SA Water does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, completeness, or currency of the information provided. SA Water recommends that you ask for professional advice from your own advisors on any aspect of your own circumstances.

## Liability disclaimer

This Technical Standard may be used by only: SA Water staff, SA Water contractors and persons expressly authorised in writing by SA Water to do so.

To the extent that the use of the Technical Standard constitutes you acquiring goods or services from SA Water, as a consumer within the meaning of the Australian Consumer Law set out in the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) sch 2, as amended or replaced from time to time, you may have certain rights and remedies (including: consumer guarantee rights) that cannot be excluded, restricted or modified by agreement.

Nothing in this disclaimer operates to exclude, restrict or modify the application of any implied condition or warranty, provision, the exercise of any right or remedy, or the imposition of any liability under the Australian Consumer Law or any other statute, where to do so would contravene that statute or cause any term of this agreement to be void.

You acknowledge and agree that:

- Except for any non-excludable obligations, SA Water gives no warranty (express or implied) or guarantee that information, services and materials contained in this Technical Standard are accurate, complete, current, or fit for any use whatsoever.
- All such information, services and materials are provided "as is" and "as available" without warranty of any kind. This means, for instance, that you should not rely on the accuracy or completeness of any information displayed within this Technical Standard and its suitability for application to your particular circumstances, and furthermore it is your responsibility to contact an appropriate member of our staff if you have any questions about suitability of the Technical Standard to any particular circumstance, before your use of the Technical Standard.

To the maximum extent permitted by law and subject to any non-excludable obligations, SA Water excludes all liability for any loss or damage arising out of access to, use of, or reliance upon information, services and materials contained within this Technical Standard.

## Significant/major changes incorporated in this edition

Not applicable - this is the first edition of the Technical Guideline.


## Document controls

### Version history

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	28 August 2025	Various	Issued for Use

Template: Technical Guideline Version 8.1, 30 September 2024

### Approvers

Approver Name	Approver Role	Signature
Tim Kildea	Manager Environment and Heritage Expertise	<div>16/09/2025</div> <div>X </div> <div>Tim Kildea Manager Environment and Heritage Expertise Signed by: KI000359</div>
Brooke Swaffer	Manager Environment and Recreation	<div>16/09/2025</div> <div>X Brooke Swaffer</div> <div>Brooke Swaffer Manager Environment and Recreation Signed by: SW001471</div>

### Reviewers

Name	Role	Version	Review Date
Environment and Heritage Expertise Team	Team review of guidelines.	1.0	28-08-2025

# 1 Introduction

This guideline relates to the management of Phytophthora risk during project planning, construction or maintenance activities, where the risk has been rated as medium or high based on a preliminary assessment.

It forms part of the TG 0875 Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines and is designed to provide insight into regulatory obligations associated with Phytophthora, as well as suggested approaches to manage risk.

Note the guideline is not exhaustive, and additional requirements may be necessary based on project- or site-specific activities, or geographical location.

## 1.1 Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines Suite

The SAWG-ENV-0875 Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines suite includes:

- TG 0875.00: General requirements
- TG 0875.11: Aboriginal heritage and Native Title
- TG 0875.12: Non-Aboriginal heritage
- TG 0875.21: Vegetation
- TG 0875.22: Fauna
- TG 0875.23: Weed hygiene
- **TG 0875.24: Phytophthora (this guideline)**
- TG 0875.31: Surface water
- TG 0875.32: Groundwater
- TG 0875.33: Recycled water
- TG 0875.34: Sediment, erosion and stormwater
- TG 0875.35: Dewatering, dredging and earthworks drainage
- TG 0875.41: Site contamination
- TG 0875.42: Acid sulfate soils
- TG 0875.43: Hazardous substances
- TG 0875.51: Dust
- TG 0875.52: Odour
- TG 0875.53: Noise and vibration
- TG 0875.61: Spoil management
- TG 0875.62: Recycling
- TG 0875.63: Waste management

This guideline must be read in conjunction with TG 0875.00: General requirements

## 1.2 General requirements

TG 0875.00: General requirements apply to all aspects of the work:

1. Purpose
2. Application
3. Scope
4. Statutory obligations
5. Strategic alignment
6. Terms and abbreviations

## 2 Phytophthora

### 2.1 Overview

MANAGEMENT	
<b>Commitment</b>	Effective management and control of Phytophthora is important to protect our biodiversity and ecosystems.
<b>Strategic objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment Corporate Strategy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our communities live in greener environments with thriving ecosystems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Asset Management Corporate Strategy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An integrated approach enables the sustainability outcomes our customers, community and owner expect.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>KPI 1:</b> The project is completed with no confirmed Phytophthora spread attributable to project activities</li> </ul>
<b>Legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1991 (Cth)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cth)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Native Vegetation Act 1991</a></li> <li><a href="#">Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Biodiversity Act 2025</a></li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory approvals</b>	Nonapplicable
<b>Statutory obligations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)</i>, Section 8: A person must act reasonably in relation to the management of natural resources within the State.</li> <li><i>Biodiversity Act 2025 (SA)</i> Section 11: An entity must not undertake an activity that harms or has the potential to harm biodiversity unless the entity takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise any resulting harm.</li> </ul>
<b>Reference material</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Arrive Clean, Leave Clean: Guidelines to help prevent the spread of invasive plant diseases and weeds threatening our native plants, animals and ecosystems</a></li> <li><a href="#">PIRSA: Phytophthora Fieldwork Hygiene Protocol 2021</a></li> <li><a href="#">DCCEW: Management of Phytophthora cinnamomi for Biodiversity Conservation in Australia</a></li> <li><a href="#">Phytophthora Technical Group: Phytophthora Management Guidelines</a></li> </ul>
<b>Related guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TG 0875.21: Vegetation</li> <li>TG 0875.23: Weed hygiene</li> </ul>

### 2.2 Planning and design

MITIGATION MEASURES	STAKEHOLDERS
Complete a <i>Phytophthora risk assessment</i> to determine whether the proposed works are occurring in a low, medium or high-risk area.	Environmental Officer Asset Planner

## 2.3 Construction

MITIGATION MEASURES	STAKEHOLDERS
Review the Preliminary Assessment outcome to determine whether the project area or proposed works have been rated low, medium or high risk for <i>Phytophthora</i> .	Contractor
Ensure warning signage is clearly displayed at all entry and exit locations, including instructions for hygiene measures.	Contractor
Ensure management plans include detailed hygiene requirements and <i>Phytophthora</i> mitigation measures for all elements of equipment, plant and machinery used during the project	Contractor
<b>For medium risk rated projects:</b>	
<b>Equipment, plant and vehicles</b> Clean down every piece of equipment, plant or vehicle prior to leaving the site that may have come into contact with soil or spoil that might be infested with <i>Phytophthora</i> . This must follow these steps below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dry brushing to remove mud and soil:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Try to remove mud and soil when it is dry.</li> <li>b. Removal of mud and soil with a hard brush or other suitable tool e.g. compressed air, brooms, shovels or steel rods.</li> <li>c. Ensure wheels, mudflaps and undercarriage are properly cleaned.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Contractor
<b>For high risk rated projects:</b>	
<b>Equipment, plant and vehicles</b> Clean down every piece of equipment, plant or vehicle prior to leaving the site that may have come into contact with soil or spoil that might be infested with <i>Phytophthora</i> . This must take place in two steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dry brushing to remove mud and soil:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Try to remove mud and soil when it is dry.</li> <li>b. Removal of mud and soil with a hard brush or other suitable tool e.g. compressed air, brooms, shovels or steel rods.</li> <li>c. Ensure wheels, mudflaps and undercarriage are properly cleaned.</li> <li>d. Disinfect the brush / tool used to remove the mud and soil.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Disinfect to kill any <i>Phytophthora</i> that has not been removed by dry brushing:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use mixture of water and disinfectant to spray the vehicles / plant / equipment for disinfection.</li> <li>b. Allow the disinfectant to penetrate for at least 1 minute before moving vehicles / plant / equipment to a clean area.</li> <li>c. Do not drive the vehicles / plant through wash-down effluent on the way out to a clean area.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Contractor



MITIGATION MEASURES	STAKEHOLDERS
<b>Footwear, small equipment and hand tools</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All footwear, small equipment and hand tools that have potentially came into contact with Phytophthora infested soils must be disinfected.</li> <li>2. Disinfection can be done by using a small spray container with disinfectant or stepping through a disinfection bath with footwear (e.g. a container with the disinfectant solution).</li> <li>3. Steps are outlined below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. When leaving an infested zone, move to an appropriate disinfection area (for example, a hard stand covered area, that is free of soil).</li> <li>b. Remove any mud or debris from footwear / hand tools / small equipment.</li> <li>c. Obtain the disinfectant solution in a dipping bath, or in a spray bottle.</li> <li>d. Spray the soles of footwear / hand tools / small equipment, or step through a disinfectant foot bath.</li> <li>e. Step forward to prevent recontamination of shoes.</li> <li>f. Disinfect the brush used to clean footwear / hand tools / small equipment.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Contractor
Always carry a personal <b>Phytophthora Hygiene Kit</b> when walking more than 500m from vehicle	Contractor

## 2.4 Monitoring requirements

DESCRIPTION	METRIC	FREQUENCY	ACCOUNTABILITY
<b>Medium and high risk:</b> Ensure equipment (including boots), vehicles and plant are free from soil, mud or debris before leaving site	Visual inspection	Every time a vehicle leaves site	Contractor