



Unclean sea containers carry pests and diseases that can harm the unique natural ecosystems across the Pacific and devastate key industries like agriculture and tourism.

Below are some common invasive pests and contaminants found in unclean sea containers.

Why are clean sea containers important?

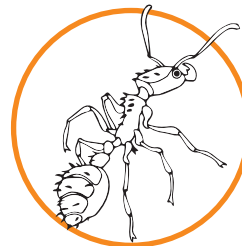


Snails

Focus species: Giant African snail

Infestation method: Snails stow away on transported plants, goods, vessel structures, cargo, and shipping containers.

Impact: Known to eat over 500 plant species and carry bacteria and parasites harmful to human health.



Ants

Focus species: Tropical fire ant, Yellow crazy ant.

Infestation method: Ants can infest imported goods, packaging or transport.

Impact: Fire ants inflict painful stings on humans and animals and crazy yellow ants cause skin and eye irritations. These invasive ants are aggressive and can spread quickly.



Beetles

Focus species: Khapra beetle

Infestation method: The Khapra beetle is able to hide away for years in the cracks and crevices of a sea container.

Impact: Contaminates dried plant products, like grains and rice, posing a serious risk to agricultural industries.



Moths

Focus species: Gypsy moth

Infestation method: Moths lay egg masses on surfaces near lights where containers are stored. They can hide in nursery stock, freight, cargo ships, and sea containers.

Impact: Caterpillars defoliate trees, leaving them vulnerable to disease, which can eventually kill the trees.



Soil

Transmission method: Transporting containers through areas that are muddy or have wastewater. Transporting unclean sea containers.

Impact: Soil can contain various plant and animal material like seeds, eggs and other invasive species.



Seeds

Transmission method: Seeds of invasive species can spread through soil and plant material unknowingly moved by equipment, machinery or transported by sea containers.

Impact: Invasive plant species spread quickly and can displace native plants or prevent native plant growth.

