



Stop weeds at the gate

Why worry about weed biosecurity?

Weeds can spread in a number of different ways, one of the ways that weeds come onto properties is through the front gate.

Weeds can come in on vehicles or machinery as seeds or as small pieces of vegetation, weeds can be on stock or in their gut and still be viable, they can be in stock feed that has been cut from a weedy paddock or can be on the people that are entering your property.

Weeds and Pests cost rural Hunter landholders \$77m dollars per year and take 680,000 days to control. It's a serious cost worth investing in.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* the carrier of biosecurity matter has a general

biosecurity duty. Landholders also have responsibility under the general biosecurity duty to prevent the spread of weeds from their own place. The graphic below outlines aspects of the general biosecurity duty.

- Weed biosecurity can help protect your place from weed incursions and save you time and money.
- By implementing practices and improving facilities you can prevent weeds spreading from your place and meet your general biosecurity duty.

Completely preventing the spread of weeds is difficult, but there are many ways you can help protect our economy, environment and quality of life.

GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY



Local Land Services



What can you do to stop weeds at the gate

How can I protect my property?

- Install biosecurity signage at property entrance to make visitors aware of not bringing or spreading weeds on property (signage is available from the LLS).
- Have dedicated, permanent vehicle tracks and parking areas on property to reduce vehicle deviation from these areas.
- Understand which weeds are a risk to your property and how to identify them.
- Identify any weed problem areas on property and restrict access from vehicles and livestock while seeding or until fully treated .
- Have a holding paddock/yard area dedicated to receiving new livestock or sending current livestock away to allow for weed seeds to be eliminated from animals.
- Have gauze screens in front of radiators to prevent weed seeds entering and contaminating engine bay if weed seeds are an ongoing issue
- Have a dedicated, well equipped area for washing down and cleaning vehicles and farm machinery.
- Know where your fodder is coming from and ensure that it is weed free.

What should a designated washdown area be like?

- It should be accessible from road without creating risk to your land.
- It should large enough to clean to bigger vehicles that come to your property (about 6m x 8m is large enough for most contractors vehicles and equipment).
- Have signage to direct high risk traffic to use the facilities, contact details and landholder requirements.
- Have a compacted surface suitable for traffic.
- Have a gently sloping and located away from sensitive areas.

- Have bunding or percolation areas to collect seeds that can be treated regularly.
- Have access to power and water.
- Have a blower, high pressure washer, brushes and storage.
- Is regularly maintained and spayed for emerging weeds.

Use a procedure with people coming onto your place

Use the *Stop weeds* at the Gate checklist to:

- Reduce the risk of weed being brought to the property
- Reduce the risk of spread of weeds around the property
- Reduce the risk of spread of weeds from the property
- Assist the landholder and contractors to meet their General Biosecurity Duty

The checklist and other resources are available for downloading and printing at the following websites:

 www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weed-control

 www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au/index.php/control-methods

Stop Weeds at the Gate Checklist

Property			
Contractor Name			
Phone		Date	

Purpose

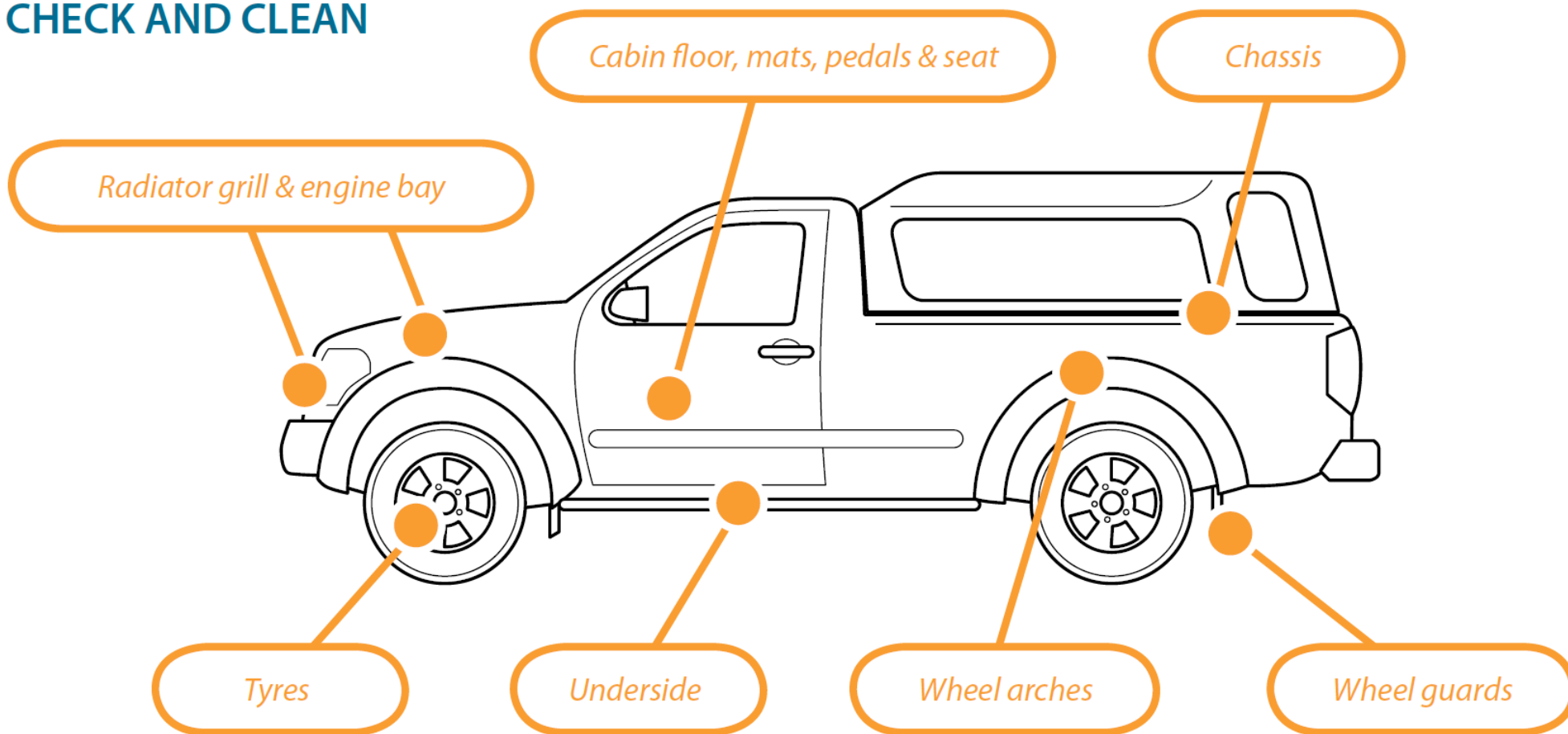
The **Stop Weeds at the Gate Checklist** can be used to:

- Reduce the risk of weed being brought to the property
- Reduce the risk of spread of weeds around the property
- Reduce the risk of spread of weeds from the property
- Assist the landholder and contractors to meet their General Biosecurity Duty

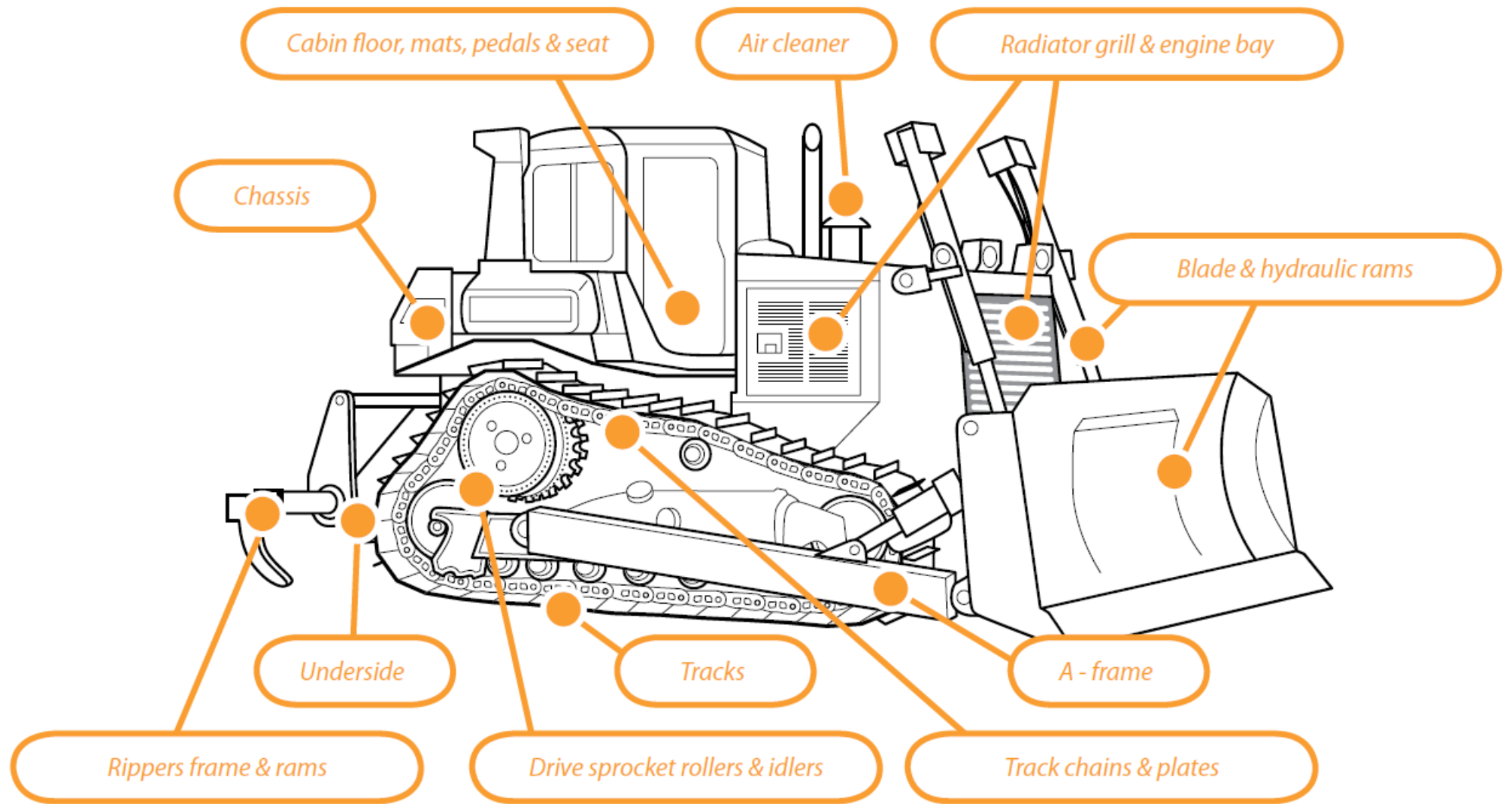
Question	Yes	Not Applicable	No			To do
			Very important	Important	Not important	
Consider the sections in blue first. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not relevant, cross it out. • If YES, then move to next topic. There are additional questions in black below to help you if you are unsure. • If NO, then consider the questions in black below. Identify the level of importance, and the appropriate action to be taken. 						
BEFORE CONTRACTOR STARTS WORK						
Have you let the contractor know in advance that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have Weed Biosecurity requirements for your property • Vehicles, plant equipment and staff should be weed free on arrival at your property? 						
Have you asked contractors if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a procedure for ensuring their vehicles/machinery are clean of mud or plant material when arriving at a property? • Can they provide you with a copy of their procedure or evidence of training? 						
Have you discussed the procedure and does it meet your requirements?						
Have you informed them that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have a procedure in place and they have a requirement to follow it as far reasonably practicable? • Can they include this in any paperwork supplied to you to confirm that they will meet requirements? 						
Have you advised contractors that you, or someone else may check over vehicles/machinery when they arrive before allowing them to proceed with work?						
Have you let contractors know up-front if they will be working in a weed infested area on your property?						
Have you offered use of a designated wash down area if a contractor has been working in a weed infested area on your property and is not self-equipped to clean their vehicle before leaving?						

Question	Yes	Not Applicable	No			To do
			Very	Important	Not important	
<p>Consider the sections in blue first.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If not relevant, cross it out. If YES, then move to next topic. There are additional questions in black below to help you if you are unsure. If NO, then consider the questions in black below. Identify the level of importance, and the appropriate action to be taken. 						
PROCEDURE WHEN CONTRACTOR STARTS WORK						
Before entering the property, has the contractor notified or contacted you to discuss biosecurity/ weed issues?						
Have the contractor and you met at the property to discuss the nature and scope of the work and the biosecurity history of the equipment to be used?						
Has the contractor been able to satisfy you that the equipment is weed free before commencing? If not, it should be a condition of engagement that equipment cleaning is undertaken at a designated wash down area.						
Has the contractor been provided with information about the weed and biosecurity risks on the property that relate to the work?						
Is there an agreed approach to the work and weed biosecurity process based on the risks?						Use a risk based approach: more risk = more cleaning
Has the contractor been given clear instructions on which tracks to use, which areas to avoid -including manure and wet areas and what to do on completion of the work?						
OPTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN WORK IS COMPLETE						
Prioritise the work so that clean areas are first and badly infested areas are left until last.						
If working in a weed infested area, machinery should be cleaned down on that site, prior to leaving that area, where practical.						
Clean the equipment at the the designated wash down area before leaving.						
First it is best to clean all dry areas, clean out inside of the vehicle and brush off or vacuum carpets/ mats / seats if practical.						
Use a blower to clear seeds from under the hood and around engine components.						
It is best to clean from the top of the vehicle down.						
Remove mud, seeds and earth from the vehicle with a pressure washer if possible						
Use best practice cleaning techniques on high risk areas of underneath and parts of vehicles that have been in contact with weeds such as front bumpers, wheels, arches and suspension etc.						

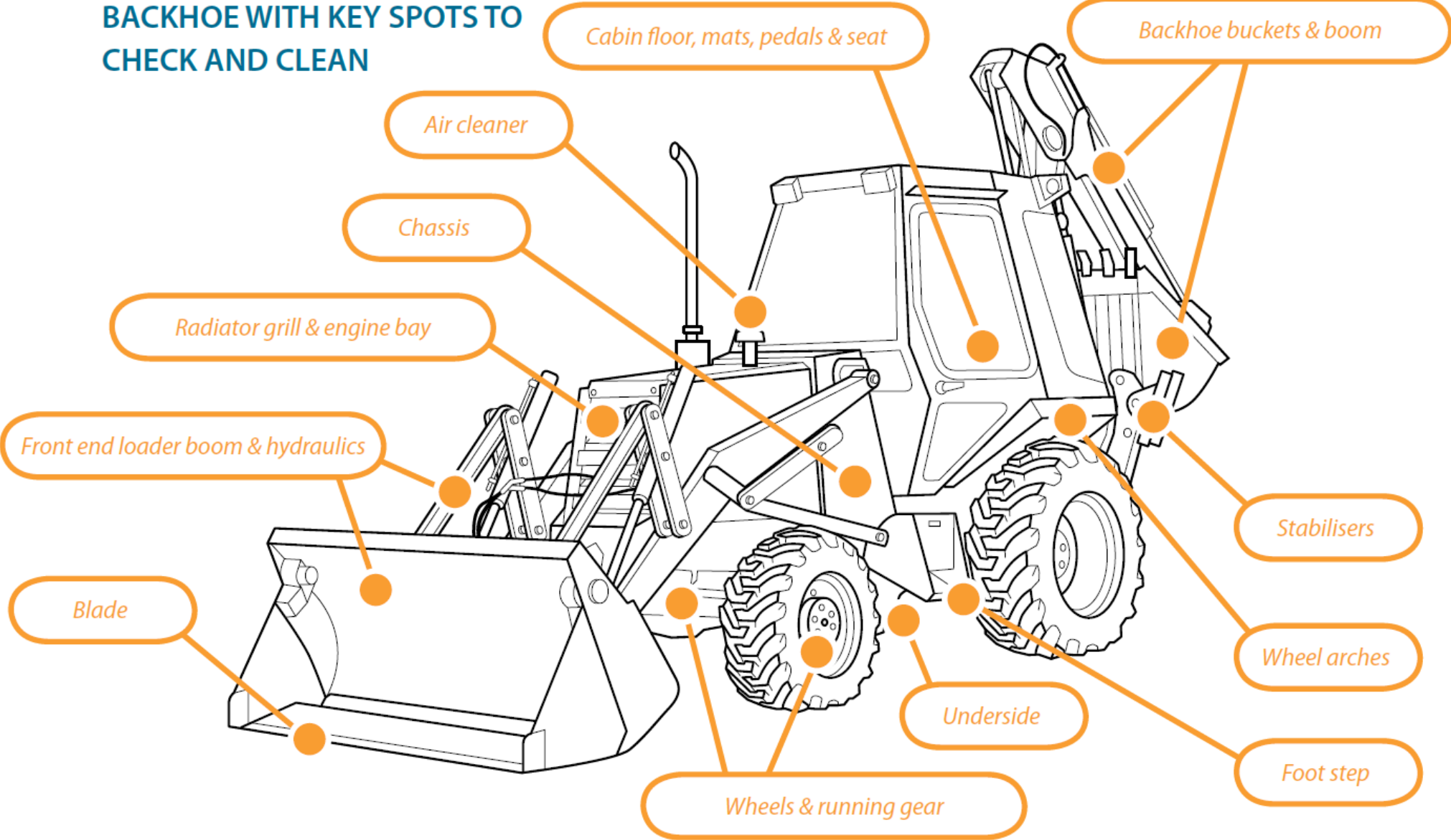
4WD VEHICLE WITH KEY SPOTS TO CHECK AND CLEAN



BULLDOZER WITH KEY SPOTS TO CHECK AND CLEAN



BACKHOE WITH KEY SPOTS TO CHECK AND CLEAN



EXCAVATOR WITH KEY SPOTS TO CHECK AND CLEAN

