



CAMPING TIPS

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CAMPING SAFETY

PREPARATION: Careful planning is a must and it can also be an enjoyable family affair. After deciding where you plan to go and how much time you intend to stay, a list of items to take along should be prepared.

CHOOSING THE CAMPSITE: A regularly used campsite is the best because of the availability of facilities and assistance, if required. The campsite should be near an available water supply and on high ground, as low areas may flood in rain storms.

FIRE: Many public campsites are available with fireplaces or cooking facilities for safe fires. Campfires may be restricted during fire season, so always check with the national forest office in the area for any fire bans. When building a fire in the open, find a location that is sheltered from the wind. Build a fireplace by enclosing the fire with rocks or dig down into the ground several inches. When leaving the campsite, make absolutely sure the fire is extinguished. Thoroughly drench the fire with water, stir the ashes and cover with dirt if necessary.

WATER: If you are not camping near a public water supply, bring your own drinking water. You can eliminate the flat taste of boiled water by pouring it back and forth from one container to another. Water purification tablets can also be used.



CAMPERS

- Keep cooking and heating equipment away from combustibles.
- Use electricity or battery powered lights only inside trailers.
- Check and maintain gas connections and fume vents.
- Keep a fire extinguisher available at all times.



TENTS

- Tents will burn. Keep pitch tents at least 15 feet upwind from campfires, stoves or grills.
- Be prepared to cut your way out of your tent if a fire occurs.

MUST-HAVE ITEMS FOR TRAVEL CAMPERS

- First Aid Kit
- Rain Gear
- Repair Kit
- Flashlight
- Maps and Compass
- Extra Clothing
- Stove and Lantern with Fuel
- Emergency Food
- Plastic Trash Bag
- Toilet Paper
- Whistle
- Water



TIPS FOR FINDING A PEACEFUL CAMPGROUND

- Avoid reservoir, beach and lake campgrounds at the height of summer.
- Camp off-season.
- Choose a campground with a host on site.
- Consider primitive camping, which involves camping in undeveloped areas. It's not allowed everywhere and campfires may be restricted during fire season, so always check with the national forest office in the area where you want to camp for acceptable locations and rules.
- Backpacking into the wilderness is a surefire way to find quiet in a noisy world.

CAMPING ETIQUETTE

- Leave the boom box or radio at home.
- If you arrive after dark, be quiet.
- Don't wash your dishes in the communal water spigots.
- Trampling through campsites other than your own is a no-no.
- Dim the lanterns.
- Keep campfires small.
- Sound travels outdoors, lower your voices.
- Secure your food from wild animals.
- Do not cut down trees in campgrounds, bring your own firewood.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Observe posted quiet hours.

