



CAMPING ETIQUETTE

Camping Etiquette: The Do's & Don'ts Around Camp

If you enjoy a peaceful campsite, chances are the people camped around you do too. Camp etiquette isn't about a long list of rules — it's really just common sense and common courtesy.

1. Keep Noise Down After Dark

Keep music, voices, generators and general noise to a minimum once the sun goes down. Many campers are there to enjoy the peace and sounds of nature.

2. Respect Quiet Hours

If the campground has set quiet times, stick to them. They exist for a reason.

3. Don't Walk Through Other People's Campsites

Treat campsites like someone's backyard — always walk around, never through.

4. Be Mindful of Generator Use

Generators are useful, but don't let them run unnecessarily or late into the night. Even quieter models can disturb light sleepers.

5. Know Local Generator Rules

Many National Parks, especially in NSW, have strict bans on generators, chainsaws and similar tools. Fines can be hefty.

6. Don't Rev Vehicles Unnecessarily

Nobody wants to hear engines revving at sunrise or late at night.

7. Use Headlights Sparingly at Night

Bright lights shining into tents can ruin someone's sleep or campfire atmosphere.

8. Keep Camp Lighting Minimal

Floodlights and bright LED strips can be just as annoying as loud music.

9. Don't Leave Toilet Paper Behind

Even for a quick toilet stop, toilet paper should never be left behind. Pack it out or dispose of it properly.

10. Bury Human Waste Properly

If there are no facilities, dig a hole well away from campsites, walking tracks and waterways.

11. Never Leave Baby Wipes Behind

They do not break down properly and become litter.

12. Clean Up After Yourself

Leave your site cleaner than you found it.

13. Take Your Rubbish Home

If you took it in with you, take it back out with you.

14. Never Leave Food Scraps Behind

Food scraps attract wildlife and can cause serious harm.

15. Don't Leave Food Out Overnight

Secure your food to avoid attracting animals.

16. Respect Nature

Don't damage trees, break branches or disturb wildlife.

17. Don't Cut Down Live Trees for Firewood

Use fallen timber where permitted (not within National Parks) or bring your own.

18. Leave Spare Firewood for Others

If you're heading home and have spare wood, leaving it behind is a nice gesture.

19. Keep Campfires Safe

Keep them small, controlled and never leave them unattended.

20. Fully Extinguish Fires Before Leaving

If it's not cold to touch, it's not out.

21. Stick to Existing Tracks

Avoid creating new tracks or damaging vegetation.

22. Don't Wash Dishes in Rivers or Creeks

Food scraps and soaps pollute waterways.

23. Don't Dump Grey Water Randomly

Dispose of it responsibly where permitted.

24. Keep Pets Under Control

Not everyone is comfortable around dogs, even friendly ones. And no pets in National Parks.

25. Pick Up After Your Pets

Always clean up pet waste.

26. Supervise Kids

Make sure they're not running through campsites or disturbing other campers.

27. Give People Space

Don't camp right beside someone if there's plenty of room elsewhere.

28. Share Communal Areas Fairly

Boat ramps, camp kitchens, water taps and fire pits are for everyone.

29. Respect Fishing Spots and Boat Ramp Etiquette

Take turns and avoid crowding.

30. Respect Speed Limits Around Camp

Dust, noise and safety all matter.

31. Keep Your Campsite Tidy

Loose gear and clutter can create hazards and spread into neighbouring sites.

32. Avoid Dirt Bikes and Fireworks in Public Campgrounds

These are disruptive, dangerous and often illegal.

33. Don't Idle Vehicles for Hours

Charging batteries is fine, but idling for long periods can annoy everyone nearby.

34. Be Friendly, But Read the Room

A quick hello is great. Not everyone wants a long conversation.

35. Be Patient When Things Go Wrong

Double bookings and close neighbours happen. Stay calm and work it out.

36. Be Willing to Share Knowledge

If someone asks about your setup, they're usually just trying to learn.

37. Remember Everyone Starts Somewhere

Today's beginner is tomorrow's experienced camper.

38. Leave the Campsite Better Than You Found It

Pick up any rubbish you see, even if it's not yours.

39. Be Mindful of Early Risers and Late Sleepers

Not everyone runs on your schedule.

40. If in Doubt — Don't Be "That Camper"

If it would annoy you, it'll probably annoy someone else too.

At the end of the day, camp etiquette is simple: treat other campers the way you'd like to be treated. If everyone followed that one rule, campgrounds would be cleaner, quieter, safer and far more enjoyable for everybody.

Happy camping folks.



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