



CAMPING ETIQUETTE

Camp Etiquette – The Unwritten Rules of Camping

This is simply my take on it which I hope seems fair and suits most who camp.

One of the best things about camping is escaping the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Whether you're camped beside a river, deep in a National Park, or at a busy campground, most people head bush for the same reason – to relax, unwind and enjoy the outdoors.

As my motto says - **#stresslesscampmore !**

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.

- Keep music to a reasonable level, especially late at night. Not everyone wants to listen to bass-heavy "doof doof" music while sitting around their campfire. They may be out camping purely to enjoy the sounds of nature, the crackling fire and the rustling of undergrowth as the nocturnal wildlife explores around your campsite.
- The same applies to generators, chainsaws and vehicles. Use them, when necessary, but be mindful of the noise they create and the impact they have on everyone else's camping experience, especially if left running all night. Sure, they're getting quieter nowadays however they can still give off a low-level hum through the night which can stir light sleepers.
- Remembering too that most National Parks (well in NSW anyway) have a flat blanket ban of generators and chainsaws and typical household tools – ie : line trimmers, blowers etc. Heavy fines apply when caught too.
- Respect the environment as much as you respect your fellow campers. Take your rubbish home, if you took it in – take it out – and leave your campsite cleaner than you found it.

- Never leave food scraps, cans, bottles or general waste behind as it looks disgusting and can also lead to native wildlife being seriously injured if they get their head stuck in an old tin or swallow plastic for example.
- If nature calls and there are no facilities available, move well away from campsites, tracks and especially waterways, dig an appropriate hole and bury your waste properly. Toilet paper can be burned down in the hole and if not, at least be disposed of responsibly, and baby wipes should never be left behind as they do not break down like many people think they do.
- Public campgrounds are generally not the place for tearing around on dirt bikes, setting off fireworks, or leaving vehicles idling for hours on end to charge batteries. Not only can these activities be disruptive, but in many areas, they are illegal and can create genuine safety risks, many which are not covered by any insurance policy you or the offender may have or not have.

Sometimes things don't go perfectly.

Campsites may be accidentally double-booked, or someone may have set up closer than you'd hoped. A little patience and understanding usually go a long way. Most situations can be resolved with a friendly conversation and a willingness to find a solution that works for everyone.

The camping community is generally full of helpful, friendly people. If someone asks about your setup, your vehicle, your solar system or how you're doing something, they're usually just interested and trying to learn. There's no need to become defensive or argumentative.

Today's beginner is tomorrow's experienced camper, and sharing knowledge is one of the things that makes the camping community so great.

**At the end of the day, camp etiquette can be summed up very simply :
treat other campers the way you'd like to be treated.**

If everyone follows that one rule, campgrounds become cleaner, quieter, safer and far more enjoyable for everybody.

Happy camping folks !



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