

After Camping Checklist

This list is contributed by our seasoned campers. Feel free to make suggestions of your own. Cross out any items that you do not require.



Tip: Use your original checklists as a reverse-guide to account for your gear as you pack up after your camping adventure.

- Separate clothes and bedding items that may need laundering. Don't wait to start doing the laundry, wash whatever you can, as soon as you can, to remove outdoor smells that can come from campfires, or from lakes, streams, and beaches, or from dirt, mud, and sand, et cetera. Add a little pine cleaner to your wash to remove odors.
- Set up your tent to air it out, especially if it got wet while camping, and to give it a good sweeping before stowing it. Be sure to air out any other camping gear, which may have gotten wet on the trip, to avoid possible mold and mildew.
- Store self-inflating pads and sleeping bags, not in their stuff bags, but loose, so they will loft and inflate naturally when you re-use them.
- Clean all kitchen utensils, cookware, dishes, glasses, and silverware. Return kitchen items to where they belong and store all camping specific cooking items together. To help keep these items organized, consider using a chuck box.
- Return any leftover foods to the refrigerator or the pantry, as necessary, and discard any foods that may have spoiled.
- Make sure that any propane camping stoves and lanterns are turned off and that all fuel containers are removed from the connections and stored properly.
- Remove the batteries from your battery-powered equipment so that the cells won't corrode and damage the item.
- As you unpack your gear, take inventory. Identify any items that are missing, damaged or broken; make a list of what needs to be located, repaired or replaced.
- Inventory your first aid kit and replace any items that have been used up. Throw out any items that should remain sterile that have been opened. Clean and sterilize any instruments that have been used to reduce the risk of infection upon reuse.
- Re-freeze any cryopacks from your ice chest so that they will be ready for your next trip.
- Clean out your ice chest or cooler and sterilize the interior of them with a solution of chlorine bleach and water after washing them out. Chlorine will help to eliminate the growth of mold and bacteria.
- Have your car, van, RV or SUV professionally washed. Have the undercarridge treated with rust preventor -- especially if you have camped near salt water. Remove any bug residue to prevent damage to the finish of the vehicle. Check vehicle for leaks.
- Check yourself and children for any parasites such as ticks, chiggers, sand fleas, etc. Wash your feet and wipe them with a chlorine solution to kill any fungus. Check yourself for insect bites and treat them immediately to prevent infection.
- Store your gear in a dry place along with a can of Damp-Rid to avoid the development of mildew fungus on textiles and materials.

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