



Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Camping Trip



As lovers of the out-doors, campers should make every effort to reduce their impact on the environment, so that it may remain intact for future enjoyment. To keep your camping trip "green" and safe, here are some clever tricks you can use as you prepare for your next out-door excursion:

1. Don't put soap into rivers and streams. If you need to use soap, bring the water to you. Even though some soaps are supposed to be biodegradable, they should still not be used in waterways.
2. Don't use styrofoam cups, paper plates or disposable plastic forks while camping, no matter how convenient they may seem. Bring a set of reusable dishes and utensils and wash them after each use. This will drastically decrease the amount of trash you create.
3. Try to decrease your dependence on toxic chemical insect repellants. Instead, use a natural repellant like Citronella oil and wear long sleeves and long pants at dawn and dusk when insects are most active.

4. Be sure to set up tents in areas designated for camping. This will prevent cutting down of vegetation.
5. When hiking, stay on the trail. Cutting through from one part to another can destroy fragile plant life and create erosion.
6. Leave no trace! Take all your trash with you. Leave your campsite cleaner than you found it!
7. You can enjoy a true outdoor experience more if you do it electricity free. Leave the games, portable TVs, and computers at home. Pack a cell phone in case of emergencies. Every little bit helps when it comes to reducing how much energy we consume.