

# LEAVE NO TRACE #3

ISSUE NO 3 | DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY



## GARBAGE

Plan meals to avoid generating messy, smelly garbage. It is critical to wildlife that we pack out kitchen waste, such as bacon grease and leftovers. Don't count on a fire to dispose of it. Garbage that is half-burned or buried will still attract animals and make a site unattractive to other visitors.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY?

Disposing of waste properly is arguably one of the most important principles to follow when in the outdoors. So, what do we mean when we talk about waste? Waste covers everything from human and pet waste, food waste and packaging, toilet paper, cooking water, and soaps. Understanding proper disposal for each category is important in

maintaining the integrity of the places we recreate. Disposing waste properly is important because it helps keep the environment safe, and helps keep the areas clean for the people and animals coming after us.

## DISPOSING WASTE WATER

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes. Scatter strained dishwater. Hand sanitizers that don't require rinsing allow you to wash your hands without worrying about wastewater disposal. To dispose of the wastewater first strain out the water for food residue and then scatter it broadly.

## Pack in Pack out

Pack in pack out is a policy implemented by many parks, at the local, state, and even national levels. Its goal is to preserve the land for all to enjoy. It is a very effective practice simply meaning that when we go out on the trails we take our litter with us.



## Common Misconception...

"if something is biodegradable, then it is OK to leave it in nature"

**TRUTH:** Biodegradable waste does not degrade overnight and so much waste will cause odor, attract animals, and might even become unpleasant to look at.

I'M  
BIODEGRADABLE  
CAUSE I BREAK  
DOWN REALLY  
EASY

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF HUMAN WASTE...

01

Find a spot that is at least 200 feet (about 70 adult paces) from water, trails, and camp.

03

Use the hole. Note: don't leave the toilet paper in the hole

02

Dig a hole 6-8 inch deep and 4-6 inches in diameter.

04

Cover the hole with the dirt you dug up.

## Going in the Woods

Please follow these simple steps when nature calls:

1. Find a spot at least 200 steps from any water source
2. Dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and bury human waste
3. Pack out used toilet paper



When people are not responsible going in the woods they contaminate the water you swim in, fish from, and drink. Bacteria and viruses found in human feces are known to cause hepatitis, blue baby syndrome, salmonella, giardia, and other gastro-intestinal diseases. Remember, the water in the rivers and lakes you visit may flow into your own drinking water supply.

*This year we are providing porta-potties along FS 81 road near busy camping areas. Please use these facilities.*