



Respect Your Forest: Personal Sanitation

Sequoia National Forest



This is information about personal sanitation (management of human waste) while visiting the Sequoia National Forest. Millions of people visit the Sequoia National Forest each year and visitation is increasing yearly. Improper personal sanitation and the improper disposal of waste degrade the recreation experience and can degrade water quality and wildlife habitat. Worst of all it can spread diseases. Please help us keep the Sequoia National Forest clean by following the sanitation practices below.

Do not wash yourself, dishes, food or anything else directly in any river, lake, stream or other water.

Be considerate of the people camping downstream and the fish and wildlife who depend on this water. Fill a bucket or container with water and take it *away from the water* to accomplish these tasks. It is requested you go at least 100 feet (but never less than 25 feet) away from water sources for this. Biodegradable soaps, debris [and diseases] break down in soil not water.

Do not bury garbage or left over foods. Always pack out your garbage to the nearest trash receptacles or better yet take it home with you. This will reduce problems with bears and wildlife. **Do not bury or burn disposable baby diapers or feminine hygiene products. Do not burn your toilet paper.**

Appropriate sanitation practices for toilet facilitates and garbage disposal will change for different areas.



Developed Campgrounds:

These campgrounds may have toilets and garbage pick ups making your sanitation easy. Where they are provided, visitors are expected to use these facilities for personal sanitation. All used toilet paper should be placed into the toilet.

Do not put feminine hygiene products (tampons and pads) into any toilet. Feminine hygiene products should be wrapped and placed into a trash container.



Similarly, **do not put disposable baby diapers into any toilet or portable toilet.** Disposable baby diapers may be disposed of in trash containers where provided. If trash containers are not provided, you must pack out the disposable baby diapers and feminine hygiene products

Dispersed Camping:

Areas are free of charge. Chemical toilet facilities and trash receptacles are provided in many of these areas for your convenience. We ask that you please use them, following the same guidelines explained for developed campgrounds.

Where toilet facilities and garbage pick ups are not provided Pack-it-out.

Whenever it is feasible, visitors are encouraged to collect human wastes and pack them out of the forest. These wastes need to be disposed of in an approved manner (placed in a toilet, disposed of at dump station or other method acceptable to the county). Do not put collected human wastes (except feminine hygiene products or disposable baby diapers) in trash containers on the National Forest. **When garbage pick-up is not provided visitors must collect all their trash and pack it out to the nearest trash receptacles or better yet take it home with you.**



Wilderness Areas:

Wilderness areas are remote, have no sanitation provisions and require more work on our part to help keep our environment clean. Please pack out what you can.

When packing out human waste is not feasible it should be buried in an appropriate manner.

- There are microbes and insects in the soil that will help to decompose wastes. To keep from polluting your water, these wastes should be buried at least 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from any water, creek, streams or lakes.
- All used toilet paper should be buried along with the human waste.
- A trowel can be used to dig the hole.
- It should be dug down into mineral soils past pine needles if they are present.
- Do not line these holes with plastic or any material to hinder the microbe decomposition process.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Hume Lake Ranger District
35860 East Kings Canyon Road
Dunlap, CA 93621
[559-338-2251](tel:559-338-2251)

Kern River Ranger District
11380 Kernville Rd.
Kernville, CA 93238
[760-376-3781](tel:760-376-3781)

Western Divide Ranger District
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
[559-539-2607](tel:559-539-2607)

Forest Supervisor's Office
220 E Morton Ave
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)



Campfire Permits

You may want a campfire for cooking, enjoying its warmth, and roasting marshmallows.



For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbeques used outside a campground or recreational vehicle and some developed campgrounds, you need a campfire permit.

The permit is free, valid for a full year from January 1 to December 31, and may be obtained in person from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE offices, or online at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/>

Your responsibilities for building and putting out your fire safely are explained on the campfire permit. 36 CFR 261.52 (k) PRC 4433.

Camping and the use of campfires are not permitted within 25 feet of the Kern River's edge, streams and trails.

Be aware that as fire danger becomes greater, campfires may be prohibited. Please check to find out if there are fire restrictions in the area where you intend to camp.

You are welcome to gather dead and down wood to use for your campfire, but not to take home unless you obtain a fuelwood permit.

Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.

When you leave your campsite,
Take all garbage, large and small.

PACK IT IN!
PACK IT OUT!

**Thank you for taking an interest in
keeping our forests clean!**