

Environmental Care Code

- Allan, S. (2005). *Outdoor activities – guidelines for leaders*. Sport and Recreation New Zealand
www.sparc.org.nz

(adapted from the DOC Environmental Care Code - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Explore/NZ-Environmental-Care-Code.asp>)

Protect plants and animals

Treat New Zealand's forests and birds with care and respect. They are unique and often rare.

Remove rubbish

Litter is unattractive, harmful to wildlife and can increase vermin and disease. Plan your visits to reduce rubbish, and carry out what you carry in.

Bury toilet waste

In areas without toilet facilities, you must do one of the following:

- Carry out your toilet waste, particularly from snow country and caves
- Agree on a single toilet place for a large group, and dig a hole deep enough for the length of your stay.
- Bury your toilet waste in a shallow hole well away from waterways, tracks, campsites, and huts if the above situations do not apply

Keep streams and lakes clean

When cleaning and washing, take the water and wash well away from the water source. Soaps and detergents are harmful to water-life, so drain used water into the soil to filter it.

Avoid fires

Dead wood is an important part of the a forest's health, so cooking on portable stoves is preferable. In high-use areas, use a fire only in an emergency. Keep it small, use only dead wood, and pour water on it to ensure it's out.

Camp carefully

When camping, leave no trace of your visit. Will the next visitor know that you have been there?

Keep to the track

By keeping to the track, you lessen the chance of damaging fragile plants.

Consider others

People visit the back country and rural areas for many reasons. Be considerate of other visitors who also have a right to enjoy the natural environment.

Respect our cultural heritage

Many places in New Zealand have a spiritual and historical significance. Treat these places with consideration and respect.

Enjoy your visit

Enjoy your visit and protect the environment for your own sake, for the sake of those who come after you, and for the environment itself.

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For more detailed information on environmental management, see:

- www.doc.govt.nz NZ Environmental Care Code and NZ Water Care Code
- www.tianz.org.nz
- www.caves.org.nz
- For information on environmental education, see www.tki.org.nz