

## 10 Essential Camping Items you shouldn't leave home without!

Here is a list of the camping items "essential" in making a trip comfortable, relaxing and easy. Counting down to the number 1, here are 10 essential camping items you should not leave home without.

**10. Keep things cold:** Keeping perishable food fresh and drinks cold presents a few challenges and will require the right gear to do the job. Options range from the humble 'Esky', to more robust and better insulated 'ice boxes' through to the many '12 volt fridges' on the market. Buy the best you can afford as it will be more effective and last you many years.



**9. Brighten up your night:** Stumbling over gear, tripping over guy ropes and burning the dinner, all because you couldn't see, does not make for happy camping. The invention of 'LED lighting' is a campers dream. Compact, with low power consumption and many shapes and sizes to suit any application, you will be amazed at what is available. Also a good 'head lamp' that provides brilliant light and allows you to use both hands to deal with the inevitable camp site chores and disasters is essential.

**8. Sit Down and Relax:** You want to enjoy that sit around the fire and communing with nature (and of course your mates), so ensure everyone has a 'comfy chair'. There are hundreds to choose from so your choice will come down to:

- Comfort
- Space
- Affordability

Make sure you sit on lot of chairs so you try before you buy, as there is a dramatic difference in the comfort levels of chairs and you don't want to be changing your mind half way through your first trip out with your new purchase.



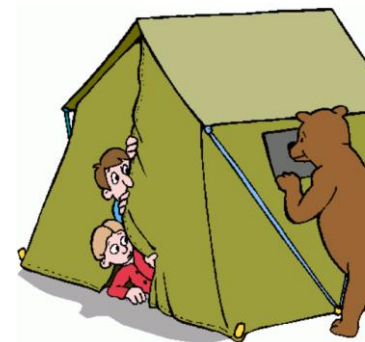
7. **Keep it Clean:** Cleanliness is close to godliness, or so they say. Cleanliness when camping, especially in food preparation and toileting, can have a major impact on your enjoyment. Germs can be easily spread and cause severe tummy upsets, diarrhea and vomiting. All of this is easily avoided with regular hand washing and the use of an anti-bacterial hand wash. **Baby wipes** are an easy way to ensure other parts of the body remain clean, especially if regular showers are not possible.

6. **Cook up a Storm:** The days of cooking everything on wood fires are largely gone, mainly due to lack of firewood or National Parks restrictions on picking up wood. This is not to say you can't have fires or that some cooking can't be done that way, but having another means is essential. The outstanding choice is a **gas cooker**, as fuel is cheap and readily available. Also a small selection of cooking pots and fry pan and durable plates and cutlery is needed. Also don't forget a pot and a can opener!!!



5. **Sleep like a baby:** Camping is no different to home – you will probably spend a third of every day in bed. You probably spent serious money buying a good mattress for home, so do the same for your camp mattress. If you get a good night's sleep you can face any challenges the day throws at you!

4. **Keep the elements at bay:** There are many shelter options, from the **humble swag** (many these days are not quite so humble), to the amazing variety of **tents**, up to sophisticated **camper trailers and caravans**. Camping is not defined by the nature of shelter, rather the nature of what you need where. Work out what you will need as there is nothing surer to ruin a good camping trip than not being sheltered from the elements or not being able to get your shelter to the destination you want.



3. **Drink:** The essential for life. How much **water** you need to carry will depend on what is available at your campsite, both in quantity and quality. The real issue is how to carry it. Some options are:

- 20 litre plastic drums – get ones that don't leave a plastic taste
- Water tanks fitted to your vehicle – an expensive option
- 10 litre spring water casks available from the supermarket – the taps from these can be easily removed and the bladders refilled

2. **Stay Safe:** The Boy Scouts have a great motto – 'BE PREPARED'. When away from home and sometimes in remote areas, an excellent first aid kit and the knowledge to use it can be the difference between life and death. This is not an area to scrimp. Have some first aid training and ensure you have the right gear for the places you intend to camp.

1. Communing with nature will invariably throw up things that test your patience, be they of the natural or man-made kind. Camping is meant to be fun, so the NUMBER 1 camping essential is **Bring Good Humour and a Positive Attitude**



For more info go to 'snowys': <http://blog.snowys.com.au/10-essential-camping-items-you-shouldnt-le>