

Camping Equipment Checklist

Checklist · 30 items · 8 sections

Forget your tent stakes or camp stove and you'll have a miserable trip. This camping equipment checklist covers every essential piece of gear for camping: shelter, sleep system, cooking, lighting, clothing, and emergency items: so you arrive prepared.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/camping-equipment-checklist>

SHELTER

- Tent with all poles, stakes, and rainfly

HIGH

Set up your tent at home before the trip to verify nothing is missing

- Tent footprint or ground cloth (extends tent life)
- Tarp or camp canopy for extra shade/weather cover

SLEEP SYSTEM

- Sleeping bag rated for the expected nighttime temperature
- HIGH
- Sleeping pad or camping mattress (insulates from cold ground)
- HIGH
- Pillow: camping pillow or stuff sack filled with clothes

COOKING EQUIPMENT

- Camp stove and fuel canister
- HIGH
- Lighter and waterproof matches (backup)
- HIGH
- Cooking pot and pan (camp cookware set)
- HIGH
- Utensils: spatula, spoon, tongs
- HIGH
- Plates, bowls, and cups per person
- HIGH
- Eating utensils: spork or fork, knife, spoon per person
- HIGH

HIGH

- Cooler with ice for perishable food
HIGH
- Water containers: at least 2 liters per person per day
HIGH
- Water filter or purification tablets (for backcountry or uncertain sources)
HIGH

LIGHTING

- Headlamp with extra batteries (hands-free lighting is essential)
HIGH
- Lantern: battery, solar, or propane for camp area light
- Extra batteries or solar charging panel

CLOTHING

- Moisture-wicking base layers
HIGH
- Insulating mid layer: fleece or down jacket
HIGH
- Waterproof rain jacket and pants
HIGH
- Warm hat and gloves (even in summer: nights get cold)
HIGH
- Sturdy hiking boots or trail shoes
HIGH
- Camp sandals or shoes for around the site

SAFETY & NAVIGATION

- First aid kit with blister treatment, bandages, antiseptic, pain reliever
HIGH
- Multi-tool or pocket knife
HIGH
- Paper trail map and compass (don't rely solely on phone GPS)
HIGH

WILDLIFE & LEAVE NO TRACE

- Bear canister or bear-hang system (required in many parks)
HIGH

- Trash bags: pack out everything you bring in

HIGH

PERSONAL CARE

- Sunscreen and insect repellent

HIGH