



This guide is intended as a straightforward guide for anyone going on a camping trip.

This free guide created is by [RNL Solar Inc.](#) and is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).

We would love it [if you took a moment to give us feedback](#) on our guides.

Is this guide useful? You may also like these too:

- Winter: [Winter Camping Guide](#), [Winter Camping Cheat Sheet](#), [Winter Camping Checklist](#)
- Backpacking: [Backpacking Guide](#), [Backpacking checklist](#)
- Skills: [Campsite selection](#), [Water Treatment](#)
- Gear: [Camping Gear Guide](#), [Ontario Outdoor Gear vendor list](#).

There are a few things to keep in mind to keep you safe and comfortable when camping. This quick guide will help you pick the best spot.

Crucial

- Avoid widowmakers. These are nearby heavy branches or dead trees that might fall on you, killing, or severely injuring you.
- Pick a campsite with good drainage. Waking up in a temporary pond or stream after rain can end your trip!
- Sheltered from the wind, except maybe a breeze to help with bugs.
- Neither the top of a hill (exposed to weather), nor the bottom (cold air and/or water fall).
- Flat spot if you're using a tent, or appropriately spaced mature trees for a hammock.
- Trees suitable for a bear bag hang nearby, but far enough so that wildlife don't associate humans with (their food being) an easy meal.
- Away from garbage and obvious signs of habituated animals.

Ideally

- Walking distance to a suitable water source. But not too close, to avoid high humidity.
- Near a source of firewood and kindling - dead standing trees with their bark gone.
- Try to avoid bugs by avoiding being near flat, stagnant water.
- A nearby appropriate place for a cat hole, a thunderbox, or other bathroom facilities.
- Think about anchoring your pegs. You can use rocks, logs, trees, deadman anchors (buried sticks) if the soil is not ideal.
- Trees appropriately spaced to hang a tarp to provide some shelter from wind, sun, and rain.

Bonus

- A great entry to the water for swimming.
- Rock(s) to absorb, and radiate fire's heat, and shelter it from the wind.
- A rock or log to sit on.
- Secluded, for good privacy.
- Avoiding



- hazards e.g. tall cliff, dangerous whitewater, etc.
- irritants e.g. poison ivy, poison oak, wild parsnip, giant hogweed, etc.