

LEAVE NO TRACE GUIDE

Last Update: July 8th, 2017

“Leave No Trace” is one of the 10 Principles of Burning Man:

Our community respects the environment. We are committed to leaving no physical trace of our activities wherever we gather. We clean up after ourselves and endeavor, whenever possible, to leave such places in a better state than when we found them.

We present to you, the ultimate FAQ (in-progress) for LNT at Burn in the Forest!

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What is MOOP?

MOOP is an acronym for “Matter Out Of Place”. What does that mean? It refers to anything that is not originally of the land on which our event takes place. In the context of Leave No Trace, MOOP is anything that is brought to the site of the event. MOOP is any litter, glitter, the hair from your bear, or even your half-eaten pear. EVERYTHING IS MOOP. We pack everything out with us.

<https://burningman.org/event/preparation/leaving-no-trace/koop/>

Examples of MOOP:

- eggshells
- orange peels
- cigarette butts & roaches
- sequins & neon fluff
- bits of wood from projects
- beer cans
- bottle caps
- tent pegs
- clumps of human hair
- mounds of toe nail clippings
- all the things you brought with you
- all the things

The only things that are not **MOOP** (that you can leave on site) are things like grass, or dirt that was already there. Large rocks and fire-rings have to be placed back where you found them.

Stop MOOP Before it Starts!

The best time to think about **MOOP** is as you are packing for the event. Take a quick look at your pile of stuff before you tetris it into your crates, boxes and tubs. Is there any unnecessary stuff or packaging? Did you bring clear garbage bags for recycling and garbage? Examine the things you are bringing and ask: will this create MOOP? If the answer is yes, don't bring it.

If you end up having to stop at Canadian Tire, or Wal-Mart on your way out to the event, you will be bringing a lot of packaging and potential MOOP with you on your way out of the store. Take a moment to open it all up and leave the packaging with Canadian Tire, or Wal-Mart. OR you can also plan ahead so you can de-package and re-pack the new stuff you plan on bringing.

Best Practices for a MOOP-free Camp

- Create a Camp LNT plan (i.e. who is bringing garbage/recycling/compost bins, who will conduct daily MOOP sweeps? Who/What/Where/How)
- Have a Camp LNT Champion (a person who executes the plan and also knows how to find help)
- Avoid bringing heavily packaged items or costumes that will shed
- Have a post-event cleanup schedule with specific responsibilities (identify who will do the camp MOOP sweep, and who will take away the garbage, compost and recyclables)
- Make sure that everyone in your camp is onboard with the camp's LNT plan and takes responsibility for themselves and each other
- If you see someone drop something on the ground, say something

Standard Camp/Site Cleanup Procedure

Do a *MOOP Sweep* of your site on Sunday, *after everyone has hauled their stuff to their vehicles*. Make sure to sweep surrounding bushes/pathways/roads. Make sure you pick up organics like sunflower seed shells, cherry pits, eggshells, orange peels, and bits of wood from projects.

How to do a MOOP Sweep

Running a 'line' / walking the grid is the easiest way.

1. Have as many people as you can stand in a line next to each other just outside the boundaries of one side of your site
2. Have the people spread out to a little more than arms length apart
3. Walk the length of your camp/site together picking up MOOP as you go
4. When you reach the end of that part of the grid, move the group over and continue until the site has been fully walked over

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz9aoS9xeR8>

Image: <https://journal.burningman.org/2012/09/black-rock-city/leaving-no-trace/moop-map-live-2012-day-1-results/>



Kitchen/Cooking - **Grey** Water and Dishes

Even water, yes, water is MOOP, especially if you used it to wash something. All the stuff in the water (like bits of food and soapsuds) are not supposed to be left on the site.

The best practice would be collecting and containing your grey water (from dishes and showers) and taking it with you when you leave.

According to *BC Parks* grey water must not be dumped within **200 feet** of any water source. **Never dump grey water in the river and do not use soap in the river.** Limit your use of soaps. Dilute them. Use phosphate-free and biodegradable soaps only. Do not leave puddles of standing water.

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/notrace.html>

Site Facilities/Camp Recycling Bins

As Burners we practice Radical Self-Reliance. There are no waste bins of any kind provided on site. Each camp must provide their own bins for garbage, recycling, and compost. You must take all your waste with you and dispose of it appropriately. Make sure your camp has an agreement on who will take which bin with them after the event is over.

We suggest having to following bins:

COMPOST (Green Bin, (ASTM D6400 Certified Bag)

CONTAINERS (Blue Bin, clear garbage bag)

GARBAGE (Black bin, clear garbage bag)

#safetyalert

!!!AVOID BLACK GARBAGE BAGS!!!

(Some waste disposal companies will only accept clear bags for safety reasons.

Non-clear bags also hide the waste, which encourages out of sight, out of mind mentality.)

Lost and Found

Lost of flaiiiiiiiiled eh?

During the festival, check out the “Lost & Found” Center Camp Crew HQ.

After the festival, the LNT co-leads will take photos of flailed items, post an album to the event page, take the items home and keep them for exactly one week. If you do not claim your MOOPy stuff within the week of the Facebook post, it will be donated.

Porta Potties

The only things accepted in the depths of the portable toilets are:

- Single ply toilet paper
- The various liquids and solids that are produced by your body: pee, poo, vomit, menses blood

Do not put any of the following items in the porta-potty:

- No Wet-wipes
- No "Flushable" wipes
- No Tampons, maxi pads
- No Garbage of any kind
- No Organics (eg orange peel, apple core).

(These items can get lodged in the machines that pump out the porta-potties, which creates back-pressure, sucking in the tube until BOOM! Shit everywhere. NOBODY wants that!)

LNT while menstruating

The 'Diva Cup' is recommended as a waste-free menstrual container. If you are using tampons or pads, bring a baggy with you so you can pack them out of the porta-potty with you.

Costumes

There are certain items that are likely to shed during the event and become **MOOP**. The following costumes and materials are high-potential MOOP items, and are best left at home:

- Glitter
- Sequins
- Beads
- Feathers
- Tassels
- Furs/Furry suits (use a lint roller, or tape to take out all the bits that are fallen out)

Drinks

Transfer your drinks to a reusable drinking container when walking around the event. You cannot walk around with drinks in aluminum cans or glass bottles. NO GLASS! People are barefoot, at minimum, and naked almost certainly. We want everyone, and everything to be able to roll around freely.

<https://youtu.be/mjvPc2lQ7J4?t=15s>

IMPORTANT <- READ ME

Alcohol is allowed to be consumed at your campsite. You cannot walk outside of your camp with any open alcohol. DO NOT walk around with cans of beer or glass bottles of hard liquor.

Eating Food

If you're going to a party and you know there's food there, bring your own plate, cup and spoon (you can eat anything with a spoon), or spork, or fork, you won't need a knife. BYOP, BYOS, BYOEverything and PACK IT OUT.

Your Responsibility

Whether you're a theme camper, a first timer, or a seasoned Burner, you are responsible for your **MOOP**, and holding your friends and fellow Burners to account. If you see someone drop something, say something. We all share in the creation of this event and so the onus is on all of us as individuals to do as much as possible to make it awesome, which includes **leaving no trace**.

Our Responsibility

We, the Leave No Trace team, pledge to you to do our everything we can to empower you to Leave No Trace.

Things that we do are:

- Coordinate with all aspects of the event to provide support and tools to whoever needs them
- Create signs, and reminders, and visual cues to keep LNT at the forefront of your burner mind
- Creating documentation like this Guide
- Coordinate with theme camps so that they model best practices and have clean, beautiful camps
- At the end of the event we review sites and sign out theme camps and art installations so that we have assurance that the production of the event leaves no trace on the beautiful land of the Stó:lō people

Sign Off Procedure for Theme Camps and Art Installations:

Picture the scene: it's Sunday, your theme camp/art project is packing up and getting ready to leave.

Once you have packed and loaded all your items, your team is ready to do a **MOOP-Sweep** of your camp and surrounding periphery. (See MOOP-Sweep instructions above). Once your MOOP-Sweep is finished, you must locate a LNT Ambassador who will sign you out. They will check your camp for signs of MOOP and so long as nothing is found, they will sign you out. You can find that person at Centre Camp/Vol HQ or walking around with a radio and a stylish LNT cape. Once they have confirmed your site is MOOP-free, they will sign you out and you are ready to go!

If there is anything you think we can do to further the principle of *Leave No Trace* at Burn in the Forest, please contact us at:

LNT@burnintheforest.com