

CHECKLIST - CHECK EACH SECTION OFF AS YOU GO. MAKE NOTES ABOUT ADDITIONAL ITEMS.

Check!	Notes	Items for beginner campers
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Tent</b> - suited to the size of your family. Go larger than what the tent states it 'sleeps' to allow for your belongings. Double check you pack the poles and pegs if you are storing them in separate bags. <b>Swags</b> are also popular for individuals, couples and families with teenagers.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Shelter</b> - depending on the style of your tent, additional shelter such as a screen room, gazebo or tarp will protect you from the sun and rain. If rain or insects set in, you need a communal area for cooking etc. Awnings that extend from your 4WD are growing in popularity.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Ensuite</b> - Essential if you are camping in an area without hygiene or toilet facilities, they are a long walk away, or there are a lot of people using the same facilities. Avoid queues, germs, chaperoning kids who all want to go at different times, and late night walks.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Poles, ropes and pegs</b> - the ground you are camping on may require stronger pegs than what is supplied. Spares are a must. Strong winds can do damage if your shelters are not securely tied off. Additional rope can be used for drying wet towels or clothes.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Ground sheet/floor mat</b> - if your campsite is sandy or has a lot of leaf litter, you don't want it making its way into your sleeping area. A <b>ground sheet</b> or <b>interlinking mats</b> provide a clean dry area for you to walk around on or have your possessions off of the moist or dusty ground.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Tools</b> - a <b>hammer</b> for banging tent pegs, <b>axe</b> or <b>saw</b> for firewood, compact shovel (too many uses to list them all), <b>multitool</b> (that has a minimum of bottle opener, screwdrivers, and knife)
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Torch</b> - At least one, most families ensure one torch per family member, makes night activities more enjoyable without fighting over who gets to hold the torch. <b>Headlamps</b> are another popular alternative.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Area Lighting</b> - Multiple options are on the market today. <b>Lanterns</b> (gas, battery, rechargeable or 12V), <b>spotlights</b> and <b>light strips</b> are versatile and can be used in a number of combinations.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Bedding</b> - There are many options available. You will need a base ( <b>mattress, stretcher</b> or both), linen ( <b>sleeping bags</b> are compact and easy to use, and <b>liners</b> keep them cleaner and are great for summer), and pillow. Airbeds, and self inflating mats are a popular choice.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Seating</b> - there are so many options. Steel, aluminium, folding, collapsing, jumbo, lounges, beach, kids..... Choose what is the most comfortable, and versatile (relaxing, eating, can be used for other activities, not just camping).
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Table</b> - An area for food preparation, eating, and a game of cards. Choose one that suits the purpose you need it for, and stores and transports easily for your situation.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Stove Top Cooking</b> - Don't rely on communal BBQ's or fireplaces when you go camping, they may be unusable, all ready being used, or a fire ban may be in place. Chose a <b>gas stove</b> that caters to how many you are cooking for. Have matches incase the peizo ignition fails to work. There are many great devices such as <b>thermal cookers</b> which can also be used at home. A suitable <b>table</b> or <b>stand</b> needs to be considered. A <b>folding toaster</b> is a fantastic accessory for the gas stove.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Open Fires</b> - If you know the facilities are available, a <b>cast iron frypan</b> or <b>folding grill</b> and plate suitable to an open fire can make cooking an enjoyable family experience. <b>Jaffle irons, camp ovens</b> , and specialty devices for grilling sausages and fish are also available. toasting forks are great for kids so they don't get too close. Find out before you go if you need to supply your own wood. Long leather gloves for safety.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Cooking equipment</b> - Plan your menu first, then you will know what you need. Two different size billies can be packed inside each other, used for cooking, boiling, on a fire or stove. Long tongs, sharp knife, scraper for cleaning up can double up as an egg flip, can opener, peeler, scissors, paper towel, and aluminium foil are always in my kitchen box. Zip lock bags can be used for leftovers, or keeping things dry.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Eating utensils</b> - Available individually or in <b>sets</b> . There are melamine, enamel, stainless steel and plastic. Buying in a set often works out cheaper and packs together better. Knives and forks can be bought individually, as a kit, or try a <b>Spork</b> for the kids as a novelty. A <b>picnic set</b> in a cooler bag means it can all stay together, and the cooler bag provides storage for all your other kitchen items.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Food</b> - Keeping it simple is often the best. Encourage the kids to participate. Pre-packaged doesn't have to mean spaghetti. Dehydrated foods are now available in 'gourmet' selections, and are an easy option, with long shelf life. Invest in a good camp recipe book, and plan ahead. Base your menu around non-perishable food items.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Cooling</b> - There are many ice boxes/esky's on the market today. Spending a bit more on one with insulation in the lid, not just the sides is essential. A cheaper <b>ice box</b> may cost you a small fortune in ice. <b>Fridge/freezers</b> are a lot more competitive in price, but this is not essential unless you camp regularly, require a second fridge at home, or will be camping for a significant period.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Leave no trace</b> - Keeping a campsite clean is essential. Ensure you take all your rubbish including food scraps with you. Do not burn rubbish in the fire (harmful chemicals may be released), or leave it laying around (encourages animals in to your campsite and either they, your equipment, or your family may ended injured). Garbage bags are also useful for storage, not just rubbish.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Hygiene</b> - There are multiple options with <b>toilets</b> (chemical, bucket, bag) and <b>showers</b> (bucket, 12V, solar). Consider how often you camp, and how many people using the facilities. A solar shower for beginners or shower in luxury with a hot water/shower system. <b>Microfibre towels</b> will take up no room, and dry extremely fast. Most importantly, don't forget the toilet paper.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Clothing</b> - Consider what activities you will be doing, what is the weather forecast, and have spares. A week of hot weather may be forecast but pack a warm set of clothes anyway. A light weight long sleaze shirt doubles as sun and insect protection and a layer of warmth as the temperature drops. Have a pair of comfortable closed in shoes (hiking, cold nights) and thongs (for showering). Hats are as essential as the sunscreen and insect repellent.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>The Kitchen Box</b> - I call it the kitchen box because it holds mostly kitchen stuff, but has the things I would regret forgetting the most. Contains 2 X plastic basins (use for washing up, dish drainer, clothes washing, dirty dishes/cups, etc), 2 x tea towels, dish washing liquid, alfoil, zip lock bags, torch and spare batteries, extra sunscreen/insect repellent, first aid kit, matches, tissues, paper towels, cloth tape, multitool, repair kits (airbed, tent, wax stick), emergency blanket, nylon ponchos and garbage bags. This box always stays packed with these items.
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		N.B This list is designed as a guide. Other lists also available, pack what is suited to your trip.