



*Plans to protect air and water,
wilderness and wildlife
are in fact plans to
protect man.*

Stewart Udall

Yosemite National Park *Wilderness*

Water in the Yosemite Wilderness

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm for more information.



Yosemite National Park includes the headwaters of two important watersheds—the Tuolumne and the Merced. The Merced River provides water to the San Joaquin Valley while the Tuolumne River travels to San Francisco to help provide the city's water supply. Protecting these watersheds is important to park visitors as well as to the communities that depend on this water.

Drinking water. Dehydration is a major risk in Yosemite. To stay hydrated drink plenty of water and be sure to bring extra water. To prevent waterborne illness, purify all drinking water from open sources (rivers, lakes, springs) by boiling, treating chemically, or water filtration.

Washing. Do all washing at least 100 feet (30 meters; 50 steps) from water—even biodegradable soap pollutes the water and can injure fish and other aquatic life. It is only biodegradable in the soil. Scatter strained wastewater at least 100 feet from any water sources.



BURY HUMAN WASTE AND PACK OUT TOILET PAPER AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Restrooms. Bathroom facilities do not exist in the majority of the park. The illness giardiasis is spread from human waste that has entered the water, so bury all human waste in a hole that is 6-8 inches deep and at least 100 feet (30 meters; 50 steps) away from water, camp areas, and trails

to preserve water quality and trail aesthetics. Pack all toilet paper and hygiene products out to avoid unsanitary and unsightly items for others to come across in the wilderness. Do not bury toilet paper—animals frequently dig it up—and do not burn it due to wildfire risk.

Safety. Be aware that currents can be strong and rocks can be slippery. Avoid pools above waterfalls and don't attempt to cross rivers when the water is high.

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