



Experience New Zealand by

camping responsibly

Freedom camping is generally permitted but there are restrictions on where you can freedom camp. If unsure, always ask.

You could get a \$200 instant fine by:



Freedom camping overnight within 200 m of this sign.



Freedom camping overnight within 200 m of this sign if you are **not** using a self-contained vehicle.

or

Depositing waste while freedom camping.

We encourage you to be responsible with your waste wherever you camp.

Carry in, carry out. Leave no trace.

For more information visit a DOC Visitor Centre or a local DOC office or go to www.doc.govt.nz/campingnz.

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

The Freedom Camping Act

What is considered freedom camping?

To “freedom camp” means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200 m of a formed road, or of a motor-vehicle accessible area, or of the sea or harbour, or of a Great Walks track, using one or more of the following:

- (a) a tent or other temporary structure
 - (b) a caravan
 - (c) a car, campervan, house-truck, or other motor vehicle.
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When will a \$200 infringement fee apply?

A person may be issued an infringement fee if they camp, or prepare to camp, in an area in which freedom camping is not permitted, or in a way in which freedom camping is not permitted at that site; or if they damage the area they’re camping in; or deposit waste inappropriately while freedom camping; or refuse to leave an area when required to do so; or refuse to give information to an enforcement officer when required to do so.

Will the \$200 infringement fee have to be paid immediately?

After an infringement notice is issued, the liable person has 28 days to pay the infringement fee. Payment options are detailed on the infringement notice.

How does this generally affect camping on public conservation land, particularly for trampers and mountaineers?

Freedom camping is generally permitted on public conservation land. Restrictions on freedom camping on public conservation land only apply to areas (normally near roads) where there has been a history of problems caused by inappropriate freedom camping or there is a conservation management reason that warrants restricting camping (e.g. ensuring equitable access to a site or where sensitive native species are present).

The Freedom Camping Act does not apply to the backcountry. The camping restrictions only apply if camping has been explicitly restricted or prohibited.

We encourage you to be responsible with your waste wherever you are camping.

What other penalties are possible?

A fine of up to \$5,000 applies to any person who is convicted of an offence involving unlawful actions against an enforcement officer carrying out his/her functions.

A fine of up to \$10,000 can be imposed for serious offences involving discharging waste; for example a campervan emptying its sewage tank onto public land other than into an authorised disposal site.
