

Ice Fishing Shelters

While some Canadians grow weary at the thought of winter, others wait eagerly for the opportunities it has to offer. Ice fishing, for instance, is a favorite winter pastime for many New Brunswickers. The thought of filling the thermos and gathering supplies in preparation for a day on the ice is a pleasure for many ice fishing enthusiasts.

When we go ice fishing it's important that we minimize our impact to the areas we visit. By being responsible, we can help to protect the environment and practice safe measures at the same time. Read on to see how you can help preserve your favorite fishing hole by following only a few simple practices.

What do I need to know?

Going ice fishing without taking the proper precautions can have environmental and other implications, such as:

- ▶ Affecting water quality through fuel spills from on-site lamps and heating appliances;
- ▶ Threatening waterways and aquatic life through the inappropriate disposal of litter;
- ▶ Contaminating lakes and riverbeds by failing to remove fishing gear and other equipment, especially at the end of the ice fishing season;
- ▶ Creating eyesores for shoreline residents and safety concerns for boaters and other recreational users when ice shelters become floating debris after a melt; and
- ▶ Creating unnecessary financial costs for those who undertake clean up of the debris.

Tips for environmentally friendly ice fishing

- ▶ For ease of removal, be certain to mount your shelter on skids or runners.
- ▶ Never throw garbage into the water or leave it on the surface of the ice, and always properly dispose of your garbage at the end of each day.
- ▶ To avoid spills, exercise caution when filling or using oil-burning lamps and other equipment.
- ▶ Before leaving, take home all personal belongings to avoid contaminating the water and/or creating litter in the event of a storm or melt.
- ▶ Remember to pay attention to ice conditions so that you can remove your shelter before the ice breaks.
- ▶ Having your name and address on your shelter as an identifier will assist other fishers or authorities in the event that they need to reach you.



By being respectful of our waterways, you can help to protect the water quality of your favourite fishing spot and help to preserve the sport from season to season! And remember- what's yours to enjoy, is yours to protect!