



## Upcoming Changes to Virginia's Campground Regulations

Important information for campground operators  
from the Virginia Department of Health

### Regulatory Update!

On 10/4/18, Governor Northam approved changes to the campground regulations.

The new regulations will be available for comment on Town Hall Virginia for 30 days beginning on 10/29/18.

If the regulations receive less than 25 objections, they will go into effect on 11/28/18.

VDH recommends that you **review the entire regulation** at <http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewXML.cfm?textid=12183>.

### General Rule Changes

- ◇ Have an Emergency Response Plan and post fire and EMS phone numbers in a central location.
- ◇ Any private well must pass a water test for coliform bacteria and nitrates every year.
- ◇ Post a sign saying "Do Not Drink" at all unapproved water sources.
- ◇ Campgrounds cannot use open-bin type ice machines.
- ◇ Bathrooms must have soap, sanitary product disposal, and a way to dry hands.

### Primitive Camping

Campgrounds may choose certain campsites to be "primitive."

- ◇ You do not need to post signs labeling each campsite.
- ◇ Vegetation can be in a natural state.
- ◇ When there are 10 campsites of less, you do not need to provide trashcans or water. You do need to post signs telling campers to bring their own water and remove their own trash.



## Temporary Camping Permits

Temporary campgrounds have always required a permit. In the past, most temporary campgrounds needed waivers to get this permit. The new regulations have standards for temporary camping, reducing the need for waivers.

- ◇ A temporary camping permit allows up to 14 days of temporary camping (in a row or not) in a 60-day period.
- ◇ Temporary campgrounds must have at least 1 portable toilet per 75 campers.
- ◇ When there are RVs, sewage tank pumping must be available.
- ◇ Temporary campgrounds must provide water. Acceptable water sources include:
  - 1) A public waterworks
  - 2) An approved, tested private well
  - 3) Commercially-bottled water
  - 4) Water hauled in from a public water supply or a VDH-approved, tested private well. Hauled water must maintain a 1 ppm chlorine residual, and all tanks and hoses must be food-grade.



**The regulations will have health and safety standards for cabins, yurts, and rental RVs.**

**VDH will inspect these facilities under your campground permit.**

## RV Parks

- ◇ If all RV sites provide direct sewer connections, a dump station is not required.
- ◇ RV-only campsites with direct sewer connections do not count towards the required number of bathrooms, as long as the campground has at least 2 toilets or privies.
- ◇ Water and sewer connections must be at least 10 feet apart. Existing connections are exempt from this rule and can be as close as 5 feet apart until you modify those connections.
- ◇ A special pump and haul permit is not required for a dump station as long as it is not connected to a bathhouse or other sewage source.



Questions?

Contact your local health department.  
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/local-health-districts/>