



Take only photographs

Removal of any natural material, unless it is part of an approved Environmental Evaluation, may be considered a breach of the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act.

- Do not remove soil, rocks, minerals, fossils, volcanic bombs or ventifacts unless specifically approved to do so.
- Do not remove feathers, bones, vegetation or other natural materials unless approved to do so.

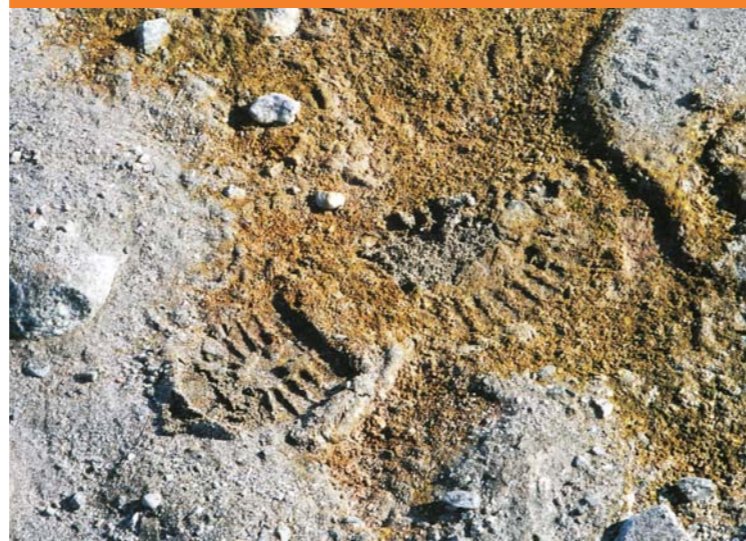
Field activities

Every effort should be made to minimise the impact of scientific investigations and field activities.

- Where possible, place tents and equipment on snow or previously used campsites.
- Secure rubbish and equipment to prevent it blowing away.
- Keep accurate records of your camp site including location, sites of tents and equipment (such as generators), any grey water and human waste disposal, location and extent of any spills or other incidents and the location of any equipment left at the site. Include this information in the environmental section of your end of season logistics report.
- When leaving a campsite make every effort to return it to its previous state, e.g. replace displaced rocks and flatten snow mounds.
- Never paint or deface rocks or ice-free surfaces.

MAXIMISE your Antarctic experience with MINIMUM environmental impact

- **Assess Impacts:**
Make sure your activities will have minimum impact and are formally approved
- **Protect flora and fauna:**
Leave foreign species at home and give wildlife its space
- **Manage waste:**
Reduce at source, separate and dispose correctly
- **Respect special areas:**
Know where designated areas are and respect their rules
- **Prevent spills:**
Avoid sensitive areas, use drip trays and spill kits
- **Keep camps clean:**
Reuse past sites, secure gear, leave it as you found it
- **Take only photos:**
Don't collect any natural material without specific approval



Antarctica New Zealand
Private Bag 4745
Christchurch
New Zealand

www.antarcticanz.govt.nz

enviro@antarcticanz.govt.nz



environmental code of conduct

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Protection of flora and fauna

Wildlife and plants can be very sensitive to disturbance by humans. Unless you have specific approval, disturbance of wildlife may constitute 'harmful interference' which is prohibited under the Act.

- Keep a minimum distance of 10 metres from any animal unless it comes to you. Increase this distance if the animal appears disturbed and take particular care around nesting birds.
- Take special care when photographing and do not walk through bird and seal colonies.
- Keep noise to a minimum in the vicinity of wildlife.
- Wherever it is safe to do so, keep vehicles a minimum of 200 metres away from wildlife.
- Do not walk or drive vehicles on vegetation, including mosses and lichens.
- Removal or disturbance of plants or animals is prohibited except in accordance with a specific permit.
- Introducing non-native species, including pot plants and cut flowers, is prohibited.
- Clean your clothing, boots and equipment before packing them for transport to Antarctica. Pay particular attention to boot treads, velcro fastenings and pockets which could contain soil or seeds.



Environmental impact assessment

Under the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act (1994), an Environmental Evaluation detailing potential impacts and how they can be minimised must be completed for all Antarctica New Zealand supported activities. The Evaluation must be approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade before the proposed activities can take place.

- Your activities are approved in accordance with an Environmental Evaluation – be familiar with this document and the specific sites and activities your Event is approved for.
- General and special conditions are also attached to the approval. One of the conditions of approval is that activities are reported on at the end of the season. Understand these requirements before you leave.



Fuel spill prevention

The impacts of fuel or other chemical spills on the environment can be significant if appropriate action is not taken quickly. Prevention is the best defence.

- Minimise the handling and storage of fuel in the vicinity of sensitive areas such as freshwater lakes and streams, bird and seal colonies and vegetation.
- Refuel vehicles and other equipment out of the wind and use drip-trays and sorbant mats.
- If a spill does occur, respond quickly using the procedures in your Field Manual.



Waste management

Most activities carried out in Antarctica will produce waste, almost all of which is returned to New Zealand. Many waste products can be harmful to the environment and to human health, so all wastes must be correctly handled, whether in the field or around Scott Base.

- It is your responsibility to separate the waste you produce and dispose of it correctly. Waste streams include Hazardous (e.g. food, medical, chemical), Recyclable (e.g. glass, paper and metal) and General Waste.
- Do not bring PCBs, non-sterile soil, polystyrene beads, chips or similar or pesticides to Antarctica – they are prohibited products.
- Get rid of unnecessary packaging and other potential waste before it comes south and choose reusable packing materials like bubble wrap or paper wherever possible. Vermiculite should only be used for packaging chemicals.
- Waste water and human waste in the field should be collected and returned to Scott Base, unless it can be disposed of directly into the sea. Return all other waste to Scott Base.
- Do not burn any waste.
- Be prepared - carry a personal pee bottle when travelling away from base or camp.
- Read the information displayed around Scott Base and your Field Manual, or consult the Waste Management Handbook for further detail.

Special areas

Certain areas of Antarctica are set aside as Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs), Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs), or Historic Sites and Monuments (HSMs) to protect the unique natural and physical and heritage values of the sites.

- Be aware of the location of designated areas near your activities. Note that all historic huts in the Ross Sea region are ASPAs and an ASMA covers the Dry Valleys.
- Entry to ASPAs is prohibited except in accordance with a permit, which must be carried.
- Always consult the Management Plan for any ASPA or ASMA you will be in or around.
- If you plan to visit any historic site, consult the Antarctic Heritage Trust's code of conduct. Copies are available at Scott Base.