

VINSON WASTE GUIDELINES



Help us maintain the pristine nature of Mount Vinson. Camp at designated camp sites and follow ALE waste policy:

- **Remove all feces and all garbage from the mountain.**
- **Dispose of urine (pee) and grey water (waste water from cooking) only at marked sites (pee holes).**

Ensure that all of your expedition members understand what to do with urine, feces, grey water and garbage at each campsite and use the procedures explained here.

Carry these notes with you and review them at each camp.

General Points

- **Separate urine from feces everywhere on Vinson.** Urine goes in pee holes; feces goes in bags.
- **DO NOT defecate in pee holes.**
- You provide garbage bags and group toilet bags. ALE gives you 3 individual WAG BAGS®* per person.

At Vinson Base Camp

Garbage in Base Camp

- Use a bin liner/garbage bag in your group kitchen to collect your garbage.
- Give full garbage bags to ALE staff.

Toilets in Base Camp

- Use the Vinson Base Camp toilets provided by ALE for feces.
- Do not urinate in the toilets.
- Urinate in the snow only at the two marked pee holes beside the toilets. Empty pee bottles and dispose of grey water here.

Grey Water and Food Waste in Base Camp

- ALE staff will give you a bucket and sieve when you arrive at Base Camp.
- Strain your grey water into the bucket to remove as much food waste as possible.
- Put solid food waste in your garbage bag.
- Empty the bucket of strained grey water into the pee hole.

Above Base Camp

Garbage on the Mountain

- **You must carry all of your garbage back to Base Camp.** Take enough garbage bags with you.
- **Do not leave garbage or equipment anywhere on the route**—this includes food, caches, broken equipment, etc.
- When you return to Base Camp, ALE staff will show you where to put your garbage bags.

Toilet Waste on the Mountain

- **Do not defecate anywhere on the route!**
- **Carry all of your toilet waste to Base Camp** either in group toilet bags or in individual WAG BAGS®.
- **Urinate only at marked pee holes.**
- Urinate in your pee bottle if you are not near a pee hole. Empty your pee bottle at a marked pee hole.

Toilets on the Mountain

- There is one marked pee hole for urine and grey water at each camp. There are additional pee holes on the route between camps. Urinate only at these marked sites and empty your pee bottles here.
- Do not contaminate the snow anywhere else with urine or grey water.
- At Low and High Camps there is a snow wall shelter beside the pee hole to provide privacy when you defecate. Defecate into a bag, NOT onto the snow.
- In past years toilet areas have been badly contaminated with feces and urine. Using a bucket to hold your group toilet bag makes it easier to use. When defecating do not urinate in the toilet bags or onto the snow. Urinate into your pee bottle.

Half Camp and Low Camp

- Use individual WAG BAGS® or a double-bagged group toilet bag for feces.
- Do not leave bags of toilet waste at Half Camp. Carry them up to Low Camp. Collect them when you return to Base Camp.

At High Camp

- Defecate into a WAG BAG®, not on the snow.
- Use the individual WAG BAGS® provided by ALE for feces in High Camp.

Summit Day

- Carry a WAG BAG® and pee bottle with you in case you need to use one on the route.

Return to Base Camp

- Carry all toilet and garbage bags back down to Base Camp. ALE staff will show you where to put your garbage and toilet waste bags.
- Return any unused WAG BAGS® to the ALE staff.
- ALE will fly all waste to Union Glacier and onward to Punta Arenas for proper disposal.

*WAG BAG®: Individual human-waste bag containing a powder that turns waste into a stable gel.

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