

The smell of hot cross buns is beginning to waft through the air, and you can't pass an aisle in the supermarket without being tempted by chocolate eggs.

The four-day break is just around the corner folks! Every year we promise ourselves that we'll be super organised. More often than not though, it ends up being a bit of a mad rush to stock up on groceries and grab those few extra bits and bobs before we leave...



A whole four days away is just what everyone needs. Image: Coleman

Set Up at Home Before Departing

Be your tent old or new – clear some space at home and set it up the week leading into your trip. This will allow time for identifying any issues, damage, or missing parts, and subsequently sourcing anything needed. No one wants to drive for hours on end only to discover a broken tent pole at base camp!

If your shelter is brand new, pitching it before your trip provides an opportunity to understand how the components are assembled, or check out a how-to video if required. By the time your trip rolls around, you'll be good to go!

Just ensure everything is packed back into the bag as it was...not tucked beneath the couch, or swallowed by the dog!



Pitching your tent at home gives you the chance to see if there is any damage or bits missing. Image: The O'Hara Family

Spring Clean Your Repair Kit

An Easter camping trip is a great time to go through your repair and toolkit, and give it a spring clean. While you're at it – check if you've used the last of your cable ties, or if your spare poles are the right size for your new tent.

This way, if something crucial is missing, you've got plenty of time to source spares or replacements in advance – taking the pressure off the day before your trip. Remember to check your first aid kit too!



If your repair kit has been through the wars, update it before your trip. Image: Ben Trewren

Switch Up Your Camping Menu

Instead of your standard menu, attempt some fun Easter-themed recipes. Damper is a classic camping treat, but in the spirit of the season simply add cocoa powder and chocolate chips – or, if you're overflowing with Easter eggs, break them up and throw them in for fun too. Take it to the next level, and make hot cross buns in your camp oven.

Don't forget to stock up your fridge or esky with some fresh or pre-cooked seafood too. If you're camping by the coast, support local by purchasing there – or even catch the fish of the day yourself!



Homemade hot cross buns in the camp oven. Check out this recipe. Image: Mick the Camp Oven Cook

Take Your Time Buying New Gear, or Head Instore For Last-Minute Essentials

Buying a big-ticket item such as a tent or swag at the last minute can often have you rushing your normal methodical, decision-making process. If it's time for an upgrade, research thoroughly before buying. If you're unsure of anything, give us a call or send us an email for advice. We've updated a few of our *Best-Of* blogs in time for Easter too, so check out [Best Family Camping Tents](#) or [Best Camping Swags](#) if you're curious as to which ones others are buying. We wouldn't want you to end up with a tent that doesn't suit your lifestyle, so feel free to pick our brains.

Also, if ordering online, be aware of delivery delays. Easter is the busiest camping weekend of the year so you might find you need to allow extra time. If it's down to the wire, buy your essentials instore so you're guaranteed to have them in your hot little hands by Easter.



Delivery times on family tents are longer due to their size and weight. Image: Oztent

Prepare Your Sleeping Mat

If you forgot to unroll your [self-inflating mat](#) before storing after your last trip away, or you typically don't have the space - don't forget to open it up at least a couple of days before your trip (depending on how long it's been rolled up). Check your mat for any leaks and repair damaged areas ahead of time. [This guide](#) shows just how to do the job!

The best way to store your self-inflating mat is to keep it inflated with the valves open, before deflating and rolling up when it's time to hit the road. Shopping around for a new mat? Check out our best-sellers [here](#).



Your self-inflating mat should come out of hibernation to ensure it's ready to go for your trip. Image: Sea to Summit

Ensure Your Gear is Clean!

You don't want to crawl into your [sleeping bag](#) after a long day only to find it smells a little funky...and is filled with mysterious crunchy bits. Even worse - maybe you didn't wipe the inside of your [icebox](#) or [12V fridge](#) after your last trip, and so are greeted with the stench of decay and some gnarly-looking mould.

It's important to clean everything both before and [after a trip](#). This will ensure your gear remains in good condition for many more uses and makes for easy preparation ahead of your next trip.



Dirty gear is not a great way to start a trip, so give it a wipe down before you go. Image: Erin Wescombe

Pack Extra Pegs and Guy Ropes

If the forecast is windy, extra guy ropes and pegs are always an excellent idea. Not sure what pegs you'll need? Here's a helpful article - but remember, if the breeze picks up, it is key to further stabilise your poles by adding guy ropes on either side to counteract any movement.



It is wise to bring along extra pegs and guy ropes. Image: Explore Planet Earth

Have an Easter Egg Hunt! (But Leave No Trace...)

With the increased popularity of camping over the past 12 months, there's concern over the environmental impact of campers not doing the right thing out in the bush or at the beach. On this year's Easter camping trip, please remember the key principals of Leave No Trace. Still can't find all the choccy eggs you planted in your own backyard last year? Well - what chance do you have of finding them all at the campsite?

Easter egg hunts are an aspect of Easter that the kids look forward to, but there's always a couple of stray choccies that go missing. Whilst this isn't such a big deal when you're at home, the foil (let alone the chocolate contents) can be hazardous to native wildlife if consumed. This can create negative long-term habits for them too.

If you're going to have an Easter egg hunt, keep note of the number of eggs you plan to hide and snap a picture of where they're hidden. Maybe you only hide them around your tent and camp kitchen area to limit the number that go astray. There's also the option of placing them inside smaller plastic containers to help prevent animals from getting to them before the kids!

When the hunt is over, the chocolate eggs have been gobbled, and the very last hot cross bun has been toasted - pack up camp and leave the site better than you found it.

The next camper will thank you. One day that next camper will be you, so leave the space as you'd want to find it yourself!



Consider the native flora and fauna when preparing your Easter egg hunt. Image: Coleman

Happy Camping Everyone!

Be it chilling out at home in your own backyard, heading to the river, or going camping in the bush - we hope you have a fun and safe trip over Easter this year.

Do you have a trip planned for Easter this year, or will you be relaxing at home?