HELP PROTECT OUR SEA TURTLES

From May 1 through October 31, our beaches are precious nesting grounds for sea turtles. Without your support, the turtle populations will decline.

HERE’S HOW TO HELP:

- Keep the beaches #CleanDarkFlat
- Prevent all lights from illuminating the beach
- Fill in holes and knock down sandcastles before leaving the beach
- Look but don’t touch - disturbing a turtle or nest is a federal and state violation

For more about sea turtles, beach rules, “Leave No Trace” policy and beach safety guidance, go to VisitSouthWalton.com.

Thank you for being a friend & protecting sea turtles!

If you find an injured, sick or dead sea turtle, or to report someone disturbing a sea turtle nest, please call the Walton County Sheriff’s Office.

Walton County Sheriff's Office:
(850) 267-2600
South Walton’s 26 miles of beaches are beautiful, scenic and refreshing — and to keep them that way, we all must respect our fellow visitors and the natural environment. The following beach ordinances and state statutes ensure the best experience for everyone.

PUBLIC BEACH RULES:
- Leave No Trace: overnight, unattended items will be discarded
- Glass containers prohibited
- Vehicles and dogs require permits*
- Bonfires require a permit**
- Solicitation prohibited
- Removal of sand, vegetation or Gulf water prohibited
- Keep off dunes
- No excessive noise
- Tents must be 10’ x 10’ or smaller and are to be set up only on the top 1/3 of the available beach space
- Camping prohibited
- No charcoal grills***
- No metal shovels
- Fill in holes dug in sand
- No littering
- No nudity
- Please allow a 15’ setback from dunes and water’s edge for emergency vehicles

*Vehicle and dog permits are for residents and property owners only. If you fall into this category, you may obtain a permit through the Walton County Administration Office, (850) 892-8155.

**Permitted bonfires are allowed at most public beach accesses, which are identified by an access number located at the beginning of each boardwalk. Accesses not clearly marked are privately owned and require written permission from the property owner before a permit is issued. For more information, contact the South Walton Fire District, (850) 267-1298.

***Charcoal grills are not allowed on the beach. All grilling must be done on Propane grills measuring at 225 square inches (approximately 12”x18” rectangular or 16” in diameter for circular grills) or smaller.

LEAVE NO TRACE:
To keep our beaches clean and safe for both marine life and beachgoers, Walton County enforces Municipal Code 22-54(g). This code prohibits beach chairs, umbrellas, tents and other personal items from being left unattended. Items left on the beach overnight (from one hour after dusk to one hour after sunrise) will be discarded unless otherwise permitted.

Your cooperation with this municipal code will ensure the area’s beaches remain pristine while also ensuring that personal articles do not interfere with nesting sea turtles, beach maintenance and emergency vehicles.

For more about South Walton’s beach rules, Leave No Trace policy and beach safety guidance, go to VisitSouthWalton.com.

FISHING LICENSE:
Visitors over the age of 16 and residents under the age of 65 are required by the state to have a Fishing License unless they are participating in a fishing charter. Licenses can be obtained through Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, www.MyFWC.com.

BEACH SAFETY:
Check surf conditions along the 26 miles of coastline by taking note of the colored flag system designed for your safety.

Current flag conditions are posted daily at VisitSouthWalton.com

Lifeguards trained by South Walton Fire District are located at all regional beach accesses from mid-March through September, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

These beach accesses include Miramar Beach, Dune Allen, Ed Walline, Gulfview Heights, Blue Mountain Beach, Grayton Beach, Van Ness Butler Jr., Santa Clara, and Inlet Beach.**

What to do if you’re caught in a rip current
- Don’t panic or swim against the current
- Float with the current until it subsides
- Swim parallel to shore and diagonally back in

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Absence of flags does not assure safe waters. Swim at your own risk.

For emergencies call or text 911.

What to do if someone else is caught in a rip current
- Have someone call 911, give accurate landmarks (beach safety flag poles are numbered)
- Do not enter the water, you too will be caught in the current
- Throw them a flotation device
- Try not to lose sight of the victim

For more information on ADA accessible activities and accommodations, contact Visit South Walton at (850) 267-1216.

For more information and tips on beach safety, go to VisitSouthWalton.com/Safety or call (800) 822-6877.

*Text messaging rates apply.
**Number of lifeguarded beaches, dates and times subject to change.

FLORIDA
SOUTH WALTON