



Document Designation	Campgrounds
Revision:	Winter Camping
Approved:	Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 79

1.0 Purpose

Sub-freezing temperatures create a wide range of outdoor winter activities throughout the state to include hunting, ice fishing, skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. The allowance of winter camping can provide another option for someone partaking in outdoor winter activities. The purpose of this document is to set forth requirements for existing licensed campgrounds that wish to provide winter camping opportunities. Currently, the language within Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 79 does not address, or in some cases may prohibit, such camping opportunities.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all state retail and recreational staff and agent staff inspecting campgrounds.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 Winter camping – means providing winter-use campsites during the winter camping season at an existing licensed campground.
- 3.2 Winter camping season – means the period of time when ground frost may interrupt the normal operation of a plumbing system or fixture. Note that the winter camping season is weather dependent and will vary across the state.
- 3.3 Winter-use campsite – means an area of a campground that is designated by the operator as capable of accommodating an independent or dependent camping unit during the winter camping season.

4.0 Responsibilities

- 4.1 All state retail and recreational staff and agent inspection staff will evaluate the campground attributes that will be provided during the winter camping season.

5.0 Policy

- 5.1 Except as indicated below, winter camping shall meet the requirements in Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 79 for campground attributes available for use during the winter camping season:

- 5.1.1 Potable Water

5.1.1.1 The normal operation of plumbing systems is expected to be interrupted during the winter camping season.

5.1.1.1.1 The operator shall provide at least one potable water source, under pressure, within the designated campground or other buildings located on the premises. The water shall be available at all times that the campground is occupied.

5.1.2 Toilet Numbers

5.1.2.1 Independent camping units, such as recreational vehicles, may be used for winter camping, however the weather conditions will hinder proper use of the onboard toilet facilities.

5.1.2.1.1 All winter-use campsites are considered dependent campsites and are required to comply with Table ATCP 79.16 Minimum Number of Toilets Required at a Campground.

5.1.2.1.1.1 The provided toilets must be able to operate in cold weather conditions and be located within 400 walking distance feet from each winter-use campsite.

5.1.2.1.2 Rustic campsites and campsites closed for the winter camping season do not need to be considered for toilet numbers.

5.1.3 Sanitary Dump Stations

5.1.3.1 Campgrounds will temporarily provide the necessary means for all camping units to operate as dependent camping units.

5.1.3.1.1 Black and grey water holding tanks will not to be used on independent camping units therefore a sanitary dump station is not required.

5.1.4 Map

5.1.4.1 The campground layout and available facilities will be modified during the winter camping season.

5.1.4.1.1 The operator shall maintain a current and accurate map of the campground. The map shall show the layout and location of each winter-use campsite, potable water, and toilet facilities available during the winter camping season.

5.1.5 Site Designation

5.1.5.1 The operator shall ensure that the winter-use campsites are clearly identified.

6.0 References

6.1 Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 79

7.0 Document History

The most recent changes to this controlled document are listed at the top of the table:

Revision	Author	Change Description	Approval Date
		Provide a detailed overview of document changes per each revision made. New documents can be described simply as “New Document.”	This will be applied just prior to approval by the DCD.

8.0 Approval