

Image: BeachGuard.png

Indiana's beaches are a wonderful place to play, watch wildlife, fish, and swim. But before you head out, it's important to know what to expect.

Check our BeachGuard system for advisories, closures, maps, directions, + more  
<https://on.in.gov/beachguard> #CleanBeachesAreIN

Image: BoatTrash.png

Stow it, don't throw it! 

When boating, NEVER throw cigarette butts, fishing line, or any other garbage into the water. Protect our shorelines and keep your trash onboard! 

Take advantage of shore-side facilities to #recycle plastic, glass, metal, cardboard, and paper. 

Image: Cleanup.png

Don't bury your head in the sand when it comes to keeping our beaches clean.  Volunteer for a community beach cleanup event!

By removing trash and other debris, you are helping to keep our water clean and safe from pollution.

Get involved  <https://on.in.gov/cleanbeach>

Image: Currents.png

Great weather at the beach doesn't always mean it's safe to swim. Rip currents, powerful channels of water that can pull swimmers away from the shore, often form on calm, sunny days.

Even Olympic swimmers can't overcome the power of strong rip currents. When in doubt, stay out!

Image: Drowning.png

Drowning is often silent, subtle, and quick. Know the signs 

- ◆ Facing shore
- ◆ Mouth at water level
- ◆ Head tilted back
- ◆ Body vertical
- ◆ Climbing ladder motion

Don't become a victim trying to save someone else. Throw out a floatation device and call for help right away!

Image: Handfeeding.png

PLEASE do not feed gulls and other wildlife while visiting the beach!  

Wildlife waste can increase harmful microorganisms in the beach sand and water. The more you feed them, the more they'll come.

Help keep our beaches clean  <https://on.in.gov/cleanbeach> #CleanBeachesAreIN

Image: Handwashing.png

At the beach, chances are you are swimming in perspiration, lotions, urine and fecal matter; or playing in sand that may also contain fecal matter. 

To minimize the risk of skin reactions or GI illnesses (for yourself & others), washup before AND after going to the beach.

Image: Pets.png

If your animal is allowed on the beach, make sure that you pick up any waste they may leave behind. 

Bacteria from the waste of any animal can contribute to poor water quality and pose a risk to beachgoers.

Get involved  <https://on.in.gov/cleanbeach> #CleanBeachesAreIN

Image: Pier.png

Most current-related incidents occur near shoreline structures, like piers or boardwalks. Strong waves and currents can become too powerful to escape, and structural currents take nearly as many lives as classic rip currents.

#SwimSafely and steer clear of the pier 

Image: Pumpout.png

Pump it, don't dump it! 

Always pump-out boat sewage in onshore sanitary facilities instead of dumping it into the water.

Find a pump-out station near you: <https://on.in.gov/pumpout> #CleanBeachesAreIN

Image: Swimming.png

From rip currents to dangerous waves, there are many reasons why you should know how to #SwimSafely.

Having a water watcher, knowing the signs of drowning, and swimming at beaches with lifeguards are just a few ways to reduce risks in the water. 

Image: Trail.png

One thing that makes beaches so special is that they're home to a variety of wildlife and plants.  

To avoid disturbing these natural habitats, always stay on clearly marked trails and boardwalks!

Image: Trash.png

Keep our coasts clear 

Leave the beach better than you found it. Carry out what you bring in & pick up litter you see left behind. Take advantage of shore-side recycling options whenever possible  

Help keep our beaches clean  <https://on.in.gov/cleanbeach> #CleanBeachesAreIN

Image: Waves.png

Stay dry when waves are high! 

White water and waves as little as 2-3 feet can generate dangerous currents.

Before you head to the beach, check the National Weather Service Great Lakes Beach Hazards website for forecasts and statements: <https://bit.ly/30Bsmrb>

Image: Weather.png

Before you leave for the beach, check the National Weather Service and/or beach advisories and closings in your area. A change in weather can lead to dangerous currents, winds, or waves - ruining all the fun!

#KnowBeforeYouGo  <https://bit.ly/30Bsmrb>
