

# Open Fires vs. Camp Stoves

As soon as the fire or stove is cleared of cook pots, put on a pot of water to heat for washing. After the meal, the cleanup crew goes to work. Pour half the hot water into a second pot; use one for washing, the other for rinsing. While many campers find that hot water is both ecologically sound and effective for most dishwashing tasks, a little biodegradable soap in the first pot will help cut grease. In the second pot, a few drops of a rinse agent such as liquid bleach will kill any germs the heat doesn't destroy.

Each Scout should wipe his cup, bowl, or plate clean first, then wash them in the wash pot, rinse them in the rinse pot, and leave them to air dry on a clean cloth, or by hanging in the air in a mesh bag. Drying with a cloth adds to your supply list, and may actually contaminate the utensils.

Dispose of dishwater in an authorized spot, or by sprinkling it over a wide area far from camp and any sources of water. Do not leave any food scraps from the dishwater laying around. Police the cooking area to make sure there are no food scraps around, and be sure to put away all food according to any local requirements (bear bag, cooler, car trunk, etc.).

## Cleanup Hints

- Wipe down with liquid dish soap the outside of any pots you are using in an open fireplace. It will prevent the pot from getting permanently fire-stained, and make cleanup simple. The black will wipe right off.
- Keep food material out of your wash water pot. Make sure all utensils are free of as much food material as possible first.
- Sand makes a great scouring medium if you forget scrubbing pads.
- Get your wash water going early. You may want to start it before you cook your meal, then move it back on the heat as space becomes available.
- Be sure to leave your fireplace clean. Don't leave any unburned material in the coals unattended.