



South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

DOs and DON'Ts of Living with Alligators

Do- call your HOA or local SCDNR office if you encounter a nuisance alligator that has lost its fear of people.

Do- closely supervise children and pets when playing in or around water.

Do- use ordinary common sense and precautions. Swim only during daylight hours in designated swimming areas.

Do- inform others that feeding alligators creates safety problems for those who want to use the water for recreational purposes.

Do- dispose of fish scraps in garbage cans at boat ramps or fish camps.

Do- enjoy viewing and photographing wild alligators from a safe distance.

Do- Remember that alligators are an important part of South Carolina's natural history, as well as an integral component of many wetland ecosystems.

Don't - kill, harass, touch, or attempt to move alligators. It is **illegal** to do so, and the potential for being bitten or injured by a provoked alligator is high.

Don't- allow small children or pets to play by themselves in or around water.

Don't- swim at night or during dusk or dawn when alligators most actively feed.

Don't- feed alligators, it is **illegal**. Alligators overcome their natural shyness and become accustomed or attracted to humans when fed.

Don't- throw fish scraps into the water or feed other wildlife in areas where alligators live. Although you are not intentionally feeding alligators, the end result can be the same.

Don't- remove any alligators from their natural habitat or accept one as a pet. It is a violation of state law to do so. Alligators do not become tame in captivity and handling even small ones may result in bites. In addition, never go near hatchling/young alligators or pick them up. They may seem cute and harmless, but the mother alligator will be nearby, and will protect her clutch for at least two years.

Live Life Outdoors

