

DRAFT
Massachusetts AT Management Committee
Guidelines for Shelter Adopters
CAC et al 2010

A Shelter Adopter's job is to make sure Massachusetts AT shelters, campsites and nearby water supplies are in good repair and clean and safe.

Several visits between April and September are recommended. The first visit should be to assess any damage caused over the winter by snow, ice or fallen trees. Check also for "hazard trees"-- those that are dead, leaning, or have dead branches overhanging the shelter and adjacent areas. Report any damage or hazards to the Shelter Coordinator immediately. On subsequent visits-- every month or so during the season--you should perform the following tasks:

- Make sure the approach trail is blazed and free of brush, blowdowns, etc.
- Check the roof and shelter structure and privy for any damage, leaks, or rotting timbers.
- Check the privy to see if it's getting full. If is it mouldering privy, make sure the duff bucket is full and a rake is available to harvest duff. Knock down the pile of waste under the seat to maximize privy capacity.
- Check to see if the water supply is flowing, and the access trail is clear of brush and blowdowns.
- Is the wash pit screen cleaned and in good condition? Food cleaned from screen may be burned in a hot fire or packed out with other trash you collect from the area.
- Read the register in the shelter to see if hikers have left any notes regarding repairs or problems. Registers are typically replaced in November. If the register is missing or un-useable, inform the Coordinator.
- Sweep out the shelter and privy with the broom provided.
- One fire ring in front of the shelter is permitted. Destroy and scatter any extra fire rings. Remove un-burnable trash from the fire ring.
- Collect (look under the shelter too) and carry out any trash, food items and advertising. Food left in shelters attracts animals.
- Feel free to perform any light maintenance such a re-attaching or replacing any loose boards, touching up blazing, etc. You will be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses.

Report your visits to the Shelter

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