

Top 10 Tips Before Booking Your Cabin:



1. What guarantee do you have that the cabin is clean and ready to go at check in?

Ever been to cabin and it was still being cleaned? A guarantee of being ready at check in is advised. After all, you started paying at check in so the cabin rental company should pay you if it is not ready. Be careful of the fine print on the website. Here's a real-life example: Please Note: Due to our standards for cleanliness, there is the possibility that your vacation rental may not be ready right at 3:00PM, especially during peak season. Your patience is appreciated.

Action: Ask what is the policy if things are not up to snuff when you arrive? With all due respect, know your recourse for not having the cabin ready at check in.

2. Do you have to go out of your way to check in and get your key, sign documents, before going on to your cabin?

When you start your vacation, the last thing you want to have to do is go somewhere to check in and get a key, then drive miles and miles to your rented cabin. Have this cleared before you start your trip. Avoid paying extra to have this convenience.

Action: Ask how to get everything straight with check-in before arrival so you can go right to your rented cabin location and get in?

3. Hot tubs and cabins go together but how the hot tub was cleaned is very important for your health. This article will break it down: [Hot Tub Cleanliness.](#)

4. Does the management require a deposit?

This is how you minimize your upfront cost. Rather than pay \$200-400 for deposits, you can get that waived by paying a small damage waiver AND be protected for any accidental damages. This can "damage" your vacation. Spill some juice or wine on a comforter, break a coffee pot, or scratch a wood floor when a pebble got in your child's

shoe? These issues happen more than you might think. Sometimes it may be a friend or a child that had a silly mishap. Being covered gives peace of mind.

Action: Be sure you have [protection](#) for mishaps. Seek adequate coverage. Typically, accidental damages run under \$1,500. For only about \$30 it is worth peace of mind that if anything gets damaged, you will not be held liable.

5. What happens if something comes up?

Ever get a flat tire while on vacation or need a doctor while on a trip away from home? Trip cancellation insurance covers issues like this (and many others such as trip delay, baggage losses, etc.). This really comes in handy when you are booking far in advance. Most cabin rental companies require 50% up front and many want 30 days notice. You are in the drivers seat before you book. Ask the company to reduce that down to 14 days. If a company is busy, that likely means they have happy clients, 14 days should be enough time to rebook the cabin should you cancel.

Action: Consider insuring your vacation. Trip cancellation insurance could be money well spent. It usually is 7% of the cost of the booking but it could save you thousands should something come up. If you like being covered, get it. Click on this link for more information about trip insurance. [Why Buy Travel Protection](#)



6. Smartly check out what others are saying.

What others are saying should be only one part of looking at the cabin company you are dealing with. Did you know that Apple has the highest number of complaints with their phones? They also have what is considered the best phone in the world and have sold more phones than any company. EVER. Keep in mind that there are some that will never be pleased no matter what is provided but that is a very small exception. Be cautious when looking at a few complaints as your sole choice on making your decision of what company to book with. Positive and negative reviews of all types from different sources can be very helpful.

Action: Ask to see if recent surveys are available online for you to peruse. If not, check Yelp!, BBB, Facebook, or other social media to see what they are saying. A quick check can help in your decision on what company you should go with.

7. Are things as they appear on-line?

This is a tough one. Besides asking social medium forums and checking out surveys results, ask if the photos are doctored up. The photos showing night shots and different color-shading usually means this could be hiding the true cabin. Ask if they have unaltered photos so you can see the real deal. Who wants to see a cabin at night in the snow when that hides the cabin you are coming to in the summer?

Action: Ask to see plenty of unaltered photos inside and out. The photos should help show the layout and exterior of what you will be enjoying.

8. Ask what is the policy on bedding, towels, and linens?

A squeaky bed or a bed that is mushy does not make for good sleeping. Linens and towels get wear and tear over time. These items need replacement on occasion.

Action: Ask if the linens and towels have been recently updated. All linens and towels should be changed if soiled and should be updated occasionally. Also find out how the rental company handles complaints on such items.

9. Is everything in working order?

Your expectations are high. You're on vacation after all! However, just like your home, things happen. How is the company staffed to handle situations that come up? Being able to handle issues promptly so you can enjoy your stay is very important.

Action: Ask your cabin rental company what is their commitment to respond to any issues. Listen for an answer along these lines: "You will get a phone call back within 15 minutes and a live person at your location within an hour if the matter is urgent (during normal office hours)". Hold them to what they say.

10. Deals, Deals, Deals.... Do you have specials?

This is very important to know if deals are available. All companies have slow times and this is when a deal can be caught. Is there a way to know when these come available so you can take full advantage of them?

Action: Know how to get the deals when they become available. Check out the rental company's Facebook, Twitter and Yelp pages. Register for their newsletter. Know the deals before everyone else and you will get the best cabin at a great value. If you are calling to check in today's internet world, you may be too late. Be sure that your email will be kept private and you can opt off if you do not want receive emails any longer.

We at Cedar Creek Cabin Rentals hope this was a useful tool that will make your vacation that much more enjoyable.