

Guidelines for Recreational Fossil Collection - Summary

This document outlines the rules and responsibilities related to recreational fossil collection. Here is a summary of what is covered:

Three Rules about Recreational Collection

- 1. Rule One - Common Fossils from the Land Surface**
 - Only abundant common fossils, not significant fossils, can be collected from the surface and with hand tools only.
 - Significant fossils are those that contribute scientific, educational, and heritage values such as fossils new to science, vertebrate body or trace fossils, exceptionally preserved fossils, assemblages of fossils, or an exceptional abundance of fossils.
- 2. Rule Two - A person who finds a fossil becomes a caretaker of a collected fossil, not the owner**
- 3. Rule Three – A fossil caretaker has responsibilities:**
 - Research the area you plan to access
 - Document all fossil site information
 - Report new fossil discoveries to the Fossil Management Office
 - Label all fossil discoveries (sample labels on p. 7) and pack fossils with care

Where to Collect – Authority for access to Crown Land

Ensure you have obtained the appropriate permission as you determine if you can access an area.

Ethical Collection: When and How to Report a Significant Fossil

All fossils are part of the land's natural heritage so using the [Report a Fossil](#) form contributes to the collective knowledge of B.C.'s fossil resources. If you find a significant fossil, leave it in place, fully document the site and report your discovery – www.gov.bc.ca/fossil-management.

Collecting Responsibly and Safely

Paleontology is not just about digging up fossils. Collect responsibly by respecting the land and collect safely with your group.

Local Paleontology Societies

Become a member of a local paleontology society if you are enthusiastic to learn more about B.C. fossils.