



# South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

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## At-home nuisance alligator prevention tips

- If you live within an HOA or other property management group, inform them when an alligator is sighted.
  - o They are responsible for decisions on how to handle nuisance alligators on their properties.
  
- 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 (turtles, birds, fish) in areas where alligators live. Although you are not intentionally feeding alligators, the end result can be the same.
  
- Clear out brush along bodies of water.
  - o It increases your visibility along the water
  - o Alligators do not like feeling exposed, and much prefer coming out on land in areas that provide them cover.
  
- Put up signs around shared ponds warning people that alligators may be present and that feeding them is illegal.
  
- Be aware of your surroundings when near bodies of water. Closely supervise children and pets when playing in or nearby water.
  
- Always keep pets on leashes when around bodies of water alligators may live in.
  - o Alligators can't differentiate small pets from their normal prey items.
  
- Swim only in designated areas and only during the day.
  - o Just as you would keep an eye out for sharks in the ocean, be aware of your surroundings when nearby, or while swimming in, bodies of freshwater.

*Live Life Outdoors*



<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/herps/alligator.html>