

COMMON CABIN CONCERNS AND FAQ

Why directions do not match those on GPS? Why are the roads so narrow / winding?

GPS and Google maps are often wrong in these mountains. Some roads are shown in a wrong location or misnamed. GPS may send a traveler on the road it “thinks” is there but in reality is a gravel or dirt road. Locals often know better way of getting somewhere whereas GPS can send you in roundabout way. So we suggest using both GPS and directions (just ask) and not rely on GPS alone. GPS should be fine on main county roads and in town. Many roads probably used to be old logging roads before they got paved. It makes little sense to widen some roads that only get traveled by a few people per day. But, this is a part of seclusion and mountain experience! Tip: Local courtesy is to allow oncoming car that is going uphill to pass by you first if you are driving downhill on a narrow road.

Why are the pictures screwed to the walls?

If they are not, it often happens that guests accidentally knock a picture down. It falls down, nicks the floor, gets damaged or the frame gets broken. Most of the time guest would not report it and would just dispose of the damaged picture. It is a safety measure too – we do not want anyone to get hurt by a falling object. Most pictures in the cabin are original and one of a kind.

Why there are so few small décor items, candleholders, knick-knacks?

Often guests’ children are not closely supervised, and those small items can be easily broken, fall or go missing. We do not put candles in the cabin because of the fire safety - when guests are on vacation, they tend to be more relaxed and less careful.

Dust / cobwebs.

We are not sure why, but dust is very prevalent in the log homes. The cabin may have been cleaned mere hours ago, and yet there is dust again. Cobwebs are common and they appear very fast – after all, the cabin is in the middle of woods and there are a lot of insects trying to make their home inside the cabin.

Bugs / ladybugs.

Insects just find their way inside no matter what we do. Even after cabin was cleaned, it takes only a few hours for bugs/ladybugs to appear. Of course they get trapped and die inside. This is especially prevalent in the fall or spring when it gets colder outside. An expectation of completely insect-free environment is probably reasonable in a high-rise beachfront condo, not

in a cabin in the middle of the woods. Ladybugs (actually, Asian Lady Beetle) are harmless if not touched.

Wasps / carpenter bees.

The cabin is surrounded by woods. Wasps try to make their nests, usually under the roof overhangs and eaves, and some get inside and die. We try to keep up as much as we can but they are often much faster than us. There is usually a can of wasp spray provided. Maintenance can take care of wasps too. Carpenter bees (big loud black bees) are harmless to humans – they make a lot of noise and may hover around humans, but they do not have stingers. They do however damage wood by boring holes in it. They rarely get inside the cabin.

Why sometimes not all dishes / drinkware match?

We start out with matched sets. However, items do get broken, and as much as we try to replenish with exact same ones, sometimes they are no longer being sold.

Why no certain utensil / small appliance?

Rest assured we had it stocked. However, utensils get broken or misplaced. If no one reports it missing, and cleaning crew does not realize that it is not there, it is not replenished. If you find something missing, please do let us know. We stock common utensils and small appliances. Mixer, blender, toaster, can opener, coffee maker, iron are standard. Other small appliances are optional and we may or may not have stocked those. We try to keep hair dryers in the bathrooms but sometimes they do disappear.

Why no Teflon / nonstick cookware?

Initially we stocked Teflon cookware, but soon realized that most guests do not refrain from using metal utensils on Teflon cookware, and it gets quickly ruined. We do not want subsequent guests to have a negative experience of having to use damaged cookware. On the other hand, we cannot replace cookware sets every month. That is why we opted to primarily stock more durable stainless cookware.

Power outages.

Power outages are quite common in the area due to the climate (high winds), location and local specifics – most power lines run through the woods and in the case of high winds or storms they can be easily damaged. Good news is that Sevier County Electric is usually fast to remedy situation.

Why is there bad cell phone reception?

It depends on the provider. You will likely have good or decent reception if you have Verizon or Sprint. We do not know about T-Mobile. AT&T usually has the worst reception of all in this

area. Cabin is equipped with home phone (free local and domestic long distance) working over Verizon network that has 2 hour power outage backup.

Why is there no UNLIMITED Wi-Fi / Internet?

Because the location of the cabin is so secluded, there is no cable/DSL/fiber optic service available. The only way to get internet service is via satellite, and the satellite company does not offer unlimited data for any amount of money. We have a plan that is sufficient to cover browsing, checking email and social media. It is not suited, nor meant for watching movies, gaming, streaming media, or downloading large files. If the monthly data allotment is used up by prior guests, the subsequent guests may have no/very slow service until such time that service resets next month. To preserve availability for everyone, we reserve a right to block access to certain streaming and large content volume sites.

Why no Xbox or Playstation?

Because those are not durable enough for heavy use. Also games or devices themselves can be lost or go missing. We offer a commercial style Multicade that is sturdy, durable and fun for young and young at heart. After all, most people have PS or Xbox at home – how many have a real Multicade? Multicade is anchored to the wall for your safety – do not attempt to move it.

Not enough ice.

The cabin refrigerator is a standard household refrigerator. It is not made to produce ice in commercial quantities like an icemaker in a hotel. Most likely guests have standard household refrigerators at home, and if they anticipate a large gathering, they purchase additional ice from a grocery store. We suggest doing the same if you are having a large gathering.

Not enough hot water.

The cabin is equipped with a household electric water heater sized for this house. If there are those among guests that like taking extra long showers or several people take showers at the same time, it is conceivable that hot water may run out. The heater will produce more given time, we just ask guests to be mindful of the others in their party.