

## WHERE CAN I GO?

Knowing where you can safely detect is one of the biggest considerations and questions in detecting. You must know whose land you are detecting on and the relevant local rules BEFORE you go.

As a general rule you can detect on our beaches, parks and reserves. However you must ensure no damage is caused to public places and there is no nuisance or risk to the public.

Check with your local council before you head out as some require permits and others have lists of areas you may and may not go.

**DO NOT** detect on Heritage Listed, Historical, Pa or Archaeological (a place associated with pre-1900 activity where there may be evidence relating to NZ's history) sites. It is against NZ law to damage or alter these sites.

**DO NOT** detect on private land without prior permission from the land owner.

**DO NOT** dig up sports fields and cricket pitches (use some common sense).



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23 Camwell Park, Flaxton, Kaiapoi 7691  
(021) 205 5272  
(03) 313 1986  
info@dredgenz.co.nz

**\*\*Do your own research for your local area  
as each area has its own set of rules.\*\***

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# BASIC GUIDE TO METAL DETECTING IN NEW ZEALAND

A few Do's & Don'ts and basic  
etiquette for those new to the hobby  
of Metal Detecting.

## WHILE I'M OUT:

Remember that when you are out with your metal detector you are an ambassador for our hobby. Do nothing that might give it a bad name.

Do your metal detecting during off-peak beach or park hours or in remote areas away from the crowds so as not to disturb people.

Learn how to use and read your metal detector at home to ensure you are not unnecessarily disturbing land for anything other than target retrieval.

Ensure you are using the right tools for the job, use a sharp digging tool (NOT your garden spade), a small sheet or cloth to place dirt on to ensure accurate and tidy plugs.

**DO** remove and dispose of all trash found.

**DO** refill all holes and plugs in a tidy manner, leaving no trace you were there.

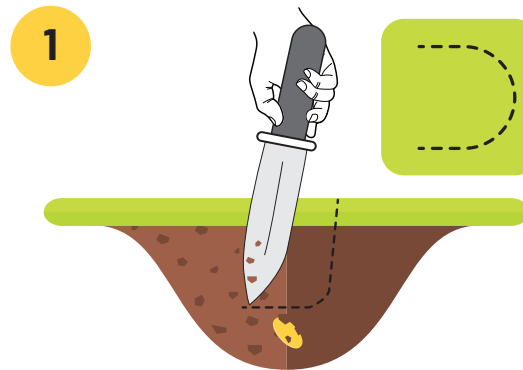


## PUT A PLUG IN IT!

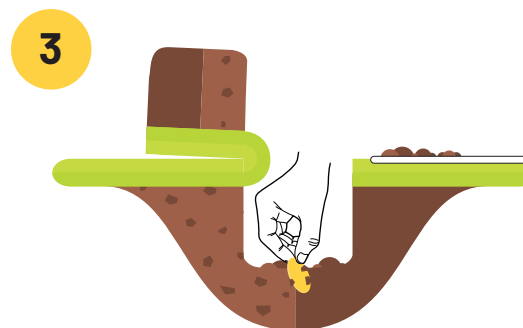
It is perfectly simple to extract a coin or other small object buried a few inches below the ground without digging a great hole.

Use a suitable, sharp digging implement to cut a neat flap. Do not remove the plug of earth entirely from the ground. Extract the object, reinstate the grass, sand or soil carefully, and even you will have difficulty in locating the find spot again.

**This is one example of how to dig a plug:**



Once a target is located, use a sharp digging tool to cut a horseshoe shaped cut around the area.

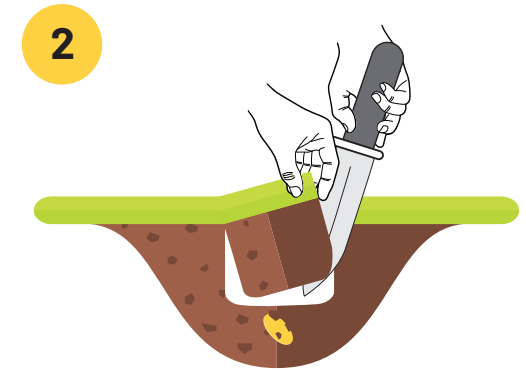


Locate your target. If additional loose dirt needs to be removed it should be placed on a drop cloth/towel.

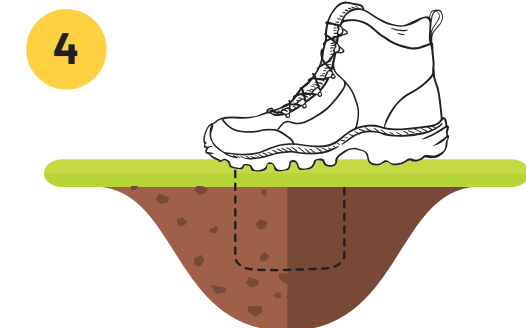
**REMEMBER:** If you can't dig a tidy plug in your own backyard, you shouldn't be doing it in anyone else's.

If there are dry or drought conditions it is best not to detect on grassy areas in Parks or Reserves.

**DO NOT** leave a mess or an unsafe surface for those who may follow.



Use your digging tool to pry the turf flap using the uncut turf as a hinge.



Replace loose dirt, flip the turf back into place and step on it firmly. Once completed there should be very little sign of your digging.