

HOW-TO FLOATING WELCOME GUIDE



photo by Lorene Blanche Gesele; ECO-Futures, 2021

Dear collaborators,
programmers,
curators, researchers
and guests,

**Welcome to Floating!
This is a quick guide
on the workings,
curiosities and
protocols of care
at Floating. Please
read.**

**The rainwater
retention basin is
a functioning urban
infrastructure as well
as an urban wetland
habitat for numerous
plants, birds, frogs,
insects, bats and
foxes. It is a beautiful
and sensitive site
which we invite you
to be a part of and
ask you to take care
of. Our ethos of
care is central to all
activities at Floating.**

CARING FOR THE SPACE

Floating depends and thrives on the care and maintenance it receives from everyone involved. This care is just as important as the events program, so we ask that everyone who visits partake, by budgeting time to spend on maintaining the space. This includes everyone doing their own dishes, properly disposing of waste, always putting away tools, cables etc. and cleaning up at the end of the day.

A good and fun habit that we have established over the years is the "Hour of Power" - an hour of intense cleaning, tidying, fixing or maintenance action every day after lunch.

COHABITATION

Floating is a habitat for numerous plants, birds, frogs, insects, bats and other animals and an experiment in co-habitation. Inside the reeds, birds are nesting and frog eggs are hatching in the mud.

Please do not walk outside of our wooden walkways and structures and don't place anything inside the reeds. The woods around the perimeter of the basin are also protected. Please make sure to keep your dogs on a leash.

NOISE

Our garden neighbors ask us for quiet time between 12am and 2pm as well as after 10pm. It's nice. It allows us to hear the sounds of the birds.

ELECTRICITY ON SITE

The electrical system at Floating is sensitive. There is a limited amount of power to feed the entire location. This means that sometimes the power will go out if too many appliances are plugged in at once. This is just something to be aware of and factor into your planning.

Please never leave out any cables, plugs or machines, as the system might short circuit and collapse if they come in contact with rain or the basin water. Switching the electricity back on usually requires some trouble shooting first - so this is best to avoid. If the power ever goes out, please let an association member know.

**FLOATING
UNIVERSITY
BERLIN**



THE KITCHEN

The kitchen at Floating is fully outfitted and you are invited to use it. Be aware however, that it is an outdoor kitchen and therefore less powerful. Think glamping kitchen. Please bring your own coffee, there is a kettle and a drip filter on site, but we recommend that you bring your own french press - it's rare to be alone on site, so the drip filter may already be in use.

You are welcome to bring your own food and use the kitchen to prepare it. We do receive some food donations as well, so there may be the opportunity to supplement your shopping with what's on site - but please be mindful about leaving some for others. Always make sure to clean the kitchen after using it - wipe down the counters, clean the stove, put away dishes etc.

It is very important to safely pack away all leftovers and ingredients inside the fridges or in plastic boxes. Anything that is left out overnight will be nibbled at by the rats. Please also label any leftovers with a date. If you want to leave food for the next group please indicate that on the label.

We ask everyone to take care of their own dishes and also bring back and wash cups and plates after using them. If the dish racks are full, please help put dry dishes back on the shelves. If you see random dishes and cups lying around, please try to pick them up and bring them back to the kitchen.

THE KINO

The Kino is outfitted with an inflatable sliding roof. If you want to move the sliding roof, please make sure to first unplug the roof from electricity. After it is moved, plug it back in so it can inflate. Never let the roofs deflate fully.

THE BAR

There is a bar team running the bar every Thursday ("Thirsty Thursdays") as well as for bigger events.

If the bar is not open, you can still take drinks - in this case please make sure to put the suggested donation into the jar at the bar. Please make sure to always bring back your empty bottles.

THE BATHROOMS

There is a water recycling protocol in place for the toilets at Floating. The toilets do not have a typical flush button. Instead, we use watering cans to flush. The water used from washing hands is collected in a central pool. Use this water to fill up the watering cans for flushing. This way every drop gets twice the use. Please use the bins provided and do not throw anything into the toilets - our pump can't handle it and the consequences are not fun, as you can imagine.

BYO toilet paper! In order to keep the bathrooms functioning we ask all programs to bring a pack of recycled toilet paper with them.

THE WORKSHOP-CONTAINER

We have some tools, screws, nails, brooms, ropes, etc inside the container. If you'd like to use them, we'll be happy to give you an introduction. Please always practice container hygiene and put things back into their place. Otherwise chaos will ensue very quickly.

TRASH + COMPOST

For taking out the trash, you will find bins with labels in a number of places around Floating – please follow the labels when separating your waste. Please help out by emptying full bins and ashtrays by bringing them to the large garbage and recycling bins located by the entrance. There are no glass containers on site so please take empty glass bottles and jars with you.

There is a place for compost collection in the kitchen. Not all food can be composted - please follow the guides in the kitchen for what to compost and what to throw out. General guideline for our compost is to only collect raw scraps of fruit and vegetables. Please do not add any animal product or cooked / processed foods to the compost.

Lastly, we would really appreciate your help in picking up any trash you might see onsite - let's all contribute to keeping the place beautiful.

BICYCLES

Please ask everyone from your group to leave bikes outside Floating. Do not park them on the driveway or the skybridge.

SOME EXTRA CARE

If you are a multi-day program or a big group, please make sure to schedule an “hour-of-power” after every lunch and do 1 or 2 of the things below:

- Clean the toilets.
There are cleaning supplies in the bathroom storage. This is a big help!
- Swarm the site and do a big trash collection, general tidying and dish cleaning.
- Give the kitchen a deep clean
- Water the plants if the soil looks dry or the plants look wilted
- Whatever else needs doing :)

END OF THE DAY CHECKLIST

At the end of every day, please make sure to:

- close all the sliding doors and kitchen “windows”
if you’ve moved it, bring the sliding roof back between the hay-walls, plug it back in, so it will inflate. Then, secure it with the rope attached
- put all tools, cables, ropes, machines etc. back into the container
- make sure there are no cables, plugs, tools or appliances left out
- bring back and wash your remaining dishes
- bring bottles back to the bar
- leave your workspace tidy
- bring chairs back into the chair storage space behind the Kino



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Thanks very much for reading this guide and becoming part of the Floating ecosystem. We look forward to having you here with us.

If you have any questions about the site, please feel free to ask us.