

3 million active geocaches? How to make your cache stand out!

Most of the text is taken from a blog entry on [geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com/blog/2017/05/3-million-active-geocaches-how-to-make-your-cache-stand-out/) (<https://www.geocaching.com/blog/2017/05/3-million-active-geocaches-how-to-make-your-cache-stand-out/>) with some additional remarks.

Now that there are three million active geocaches hidden under rocks, atop trees, and between logs, how can you make your cache stand out? How can you hope to earn favorite points when there are three million competitors hoping for the same?

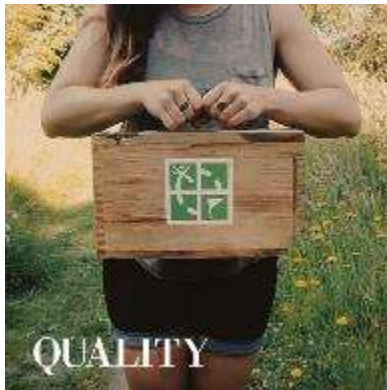
There's no exact formula for an awesome cache, but three things are essential for a good hide: **creativity**, **quality**, and **delight**.



The truth is, most of the caches you find are simple, no frills lock-n-locks, ammocans, petlings, or bisons. They're easy to hide and quick to find. Classic, and kind of plain - like vanilla ice cream. Sure - you probably wouldn't turn down a bowl of vanilla ice cream if someone put it in front of you. But wouldn't it be *better* if it was accompanied by a scoop of strawberry, chocolate, or cookie dough? Some sprinkles and a handful of nuts? You get the picture. Making a creative cache container is more work, but the payoff is huge... for the hider as much as for the finder.

If you have the geocaching equivalent of writer's block and don't know where to start, here are some ideas:

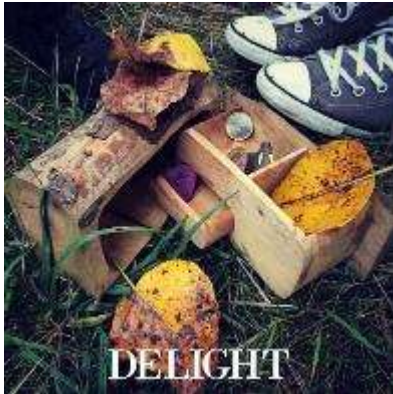
- Incorporate your other hobbies into making your cache container. Here we have our professions. Hide a container in an old boot at a shoemaker's shop (with the owner's permission) and put the key to the locked box into the hollow heel of the second boot
- Check out Geocaching's [Instagram](#) for inspiration.
- <https://www.geocaching.com/blog/2019/01/haksulandia-geocache-of-the-week/> is the current "Cache of the week" from Finland. They are special and not easy to reproduce, but might inspire you to a brilliant idea.
- Turn a drab geocache into a fab geocache [like these COs](#).
- Up-cycle old items from your garage into cool caches, like e. g. an old bird house or a wooden box.
- [Find](#) the top 25 most-favorited geocaches in your area and take inspiration from them.



What does it mean to have a quality cache? “Quality” is so subjective, so unspecific. What makes a quality cache?

What we mean by “quality” in geocaching:

1. The cache container is waterproof.
2. The contents of the cache are safe (no inflammable material, sharp objects, etc.), interesting, and dry.
3. The logbook has blank places for you to sign your name. Put it into a zip-lock plastic bag to keep it dry. Use the little bags of silicate you often find in new shoes or outdoor clothes.
4. The container is labeled as a geocache.
5. The cache is never disabled for too long. Common problems are missing containers or full or wet logbooks.
6. The area around the cache is clean and safe. Nobody likes to stand in mud or search through a pile of garbage.
7. The container is close to a place where the title-giving profession can be found. If the owner of the business allows you to place the cache inside his shop, this has the added bonus that you do not have to care about protecting the container from the weather or muggles. These caches are only available during business hours and might bring additional customers into that shop.
8. A good cache tells an interesting, entertaining or funny story. The reader learns something and is willing to spend time to read the story. If you do a mystery, the riddles have to be challenging, but fair.



Think about the last time you gasped in surprise while finding a cache. (If this has never happened to you, we recommend finding a geocache of the week near you) Aim to bring that moment of delight to every person who finds your cache.

For your cache to be delightful, the cache container, its contents, its disguise, or its location must bring unexpected glee to whoever finds it.

The container could have an unexpected disguise. Or be a whimsical twist on an old classic. It could be exquisitely handcrafted. Or a scene in miniature. You're really only limited by your imagination. (Well, your imagination and the cache-hiding guidelines.)





Signs for a **bad cache**:

1. Bad location (dirt, dog piles, too close to heavy traffic, dangerous places, difficult access that unnecessarily force you to make your clothes dirty)
2. Boring/damaged container without trade items
3. Container made of glass (unprotected, glass can break and people can injure themselves on the shards), badly maintained container (logbook full, dirty, wet, moldy, insects living in the container)
4. Boring stories or extremely long texts without illustrations
5. Arbitrary descriptions, faulty coordinates, misleading hints or information. If the description calls the container a large black "lock-n-lock" container, but it turns out to be a small grey tube, people will search in vain. Misleading coordinates or faulty descriptions frustrate cachers.

In Aachen, we have a really bad cacher called Snorri. All his cache descriptions begin with a bad poem. If in doubt were to find his caches, just look for a marmalade glass in the largest pile of wet garbage (see above).