

## The exits are here, here and here

HOW



**The summer's nearly here, and that means only one thing (apart from embarrassing sunburn, ice cream stains, and dodgy miniskirts) - festivals. Here are our top tips for staying safe and having a fantastic weekend.**

● Keep your valuables safe. Surviving a weekend without a phone, money, or the house keys that are going to get you back into your home on Monday morning, is not fun. If you're not cool enough to have zip-up pockets, try putting them inside your pillow or rolled-up sleeping bag. Stuff does get stolen at festivals, mainly because there are some idiots in the world who have not been taken away from normal society yet.

● **Keep your ticket safe** until you exchange it for a wristband. Last year, a mate at Reading had his ticket nicked from his pocket between the front gate and the campsite. He had to spend an entire day blagging another one from the officials, and it wasn't pleasant to watch.

● Girls – like you don't know already – the old 'money in the bra' trick works a treat at a festival, and also makes it highly amusing when trying to pay quickly for something in-between bands.

● Get one of those portable phone charger gizmos. You'll feel like a neek for 5 minutes in the shop, but when everyone's phones die on the second day, you'll suddenly have a lot of new best friends. It does sound like an incredibly anal thing to pack, but having

a mobile that works, and can help you get back from that ditch you woke up in, is really important.

● Want broken feet? Then feel free to bring flat shoes that will slip off easily in a crowd. Or you could wear army boots a size too big – a friend of mine chose this option and ended up half a day in a medical tent with a broken toe. Hell, why not go all out and purchase some stupidly impractical sandals? Two words: **wear wellies**.

● Gas canisters: don't be an idiot. No matter how many warnings festival organisers put up, people still convince themselves that blowing themselves up would be an excellent way to end the weekend. It's not. But hey, if you're into 3rd degree burns, be my guest.

● Want to scare all your mates away? Then **respect personal hygiene**. Deodorant, mouthwash, and campsite showers exist for a reason.

● Condoms. 'Nuff said.

● Not keen on losing people once you get to the arena? Do it in style. Take handcuffs.