

How to Razor Clam

Be in the right place:

The 18 mile stretch of Clatsop beaches account for 95% of Oregon's razor clam harvest. The razor clam population in this area is much more dense than any other area in the state.

Other areas include Indian Beach (Cannon Beach); Cannon Beach; Short Sands (North of Manzanita); Cape Meares Beach (Tillamook); Agate Beach (North of Newport); North Beach and South Beach (Newport); Waldport Beach; North Umpqua Spit (Winchester Bay); North Spit (Coos Bay); Whiskey Run (Bandon); and Meyers Creek Beach (Gold Beach).

Be there at the right time:

The lower the tide, the more area will be available. Minus tides are best, plan on being there two hours before peak low tide.

When swells are lower clams are likely to be closer to the surface, and therefore easier to detect and dig.

Find a clam:

A razor clams neck near the surface of the beach produces a distinct "show".

Shows are found most commonly by one of two methods:

1. Looking for small round dimples in dry sand.
2. Pounding a shovel handle in receding surf.

Occasionally, if you're lucky and watching carefully you can pick them out as they are feeding. Commonly known as "necking" this behavior causes very small "V" shaped breaks in the receding surf and clams can be easily pinpointed.

What to use:

Clam guns are easy to use and relatively inexpensive.

Shovels are also inexpensive and less harmful to the clams.

Start digging:

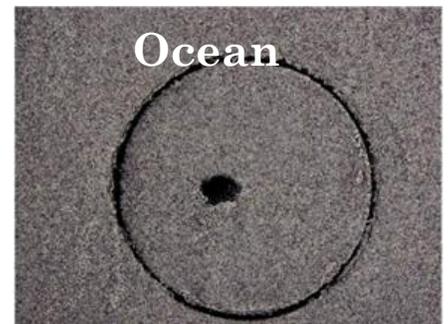
Razor clams dig fast so you must dig quickly, but dig carefully as they are named "razors" for a good reason.

Here is a clam show.



STEP ONE:

Place the clam gun so that it is off-center of the show with extra room on the ocean side. Razor clams shows are typically not directly above where the clam is and are at a slight angle towards the ocean



STEP TWO:

With the air hole on the clam gun open, drive the gun straight down.



STEP THREE: Place your thumb or finger over the air hole of the clam gun. Lift the column of sand slowly and with your legs. This can be fairly heavy and it's important that you use proper lifting technique.





STEP FOUR:
Remove your thumb from the air hole, shake sand out of gun.



STEP FIVE:
Collect your prize!



Regulations:

-  **First 15 clams must be retained regardless of size or condition**
-  Clatsop County beaches north of Tillamook Head closed to razor clams July 15 -September 30.
-  Razor clams may be taken by hand, shovel, or cylindrical gun or tube. The opening of the gun/ tube must be either circular or elliptical with the circular gun/tube opening having a minimum outside diameter of 4 inches and the elliptical gun/ tube opening having a minimum outside diameter dimension of 4 inches long and 3 inches wide.
-  Unlawful to remove clams from the shell before leaving the harvest area.
-  **Each digger 12 years and older must have a shellfish license, which can be purchased at Truckes's 1 Stop 1921 S. Roosevelt Dr. Seaside, OR 97138.** They must have their own container and dig their own clams, and may not possess more than one limit of clams while in the harvest area except under a Disabled Clam Digging Permit.

SHOVEL METHOD



STEP ONE:
Insert shovel straight down (6 inches deep) perpendicular to the clams position in relation to the beach.



STEP TWO:
Push the shovel handle forward using the leverage of the shovel to pinch the clams neck. This inhibits their ability to dig.



STEP THREE:
Slide the shovel out and replace it with your hand



STEP FOUR:
Carefully detect the clams shell and dig with your hand to remove it.



STEP FIVE:
Collect your prize!

