SW Florida is a great place to enjoy the sun and surf, especially at your BBC piece of paradise. Our beaches are important nesting areas for sea turtles, and the sand dunes are home to many unique plants and animals.

Please help protect Florida’s sea turtles, other wildlife and the coastal habitats upon which they depend. **The sea turtle nesting season on our Gulf Coast runs from May through October.** Remember to follow a few simple things to help protect these magnificent creatures and their habitat:

1. **It is against the law to touch or disturb nesting sea turtles, hatchlings, or their nests.** Sea turtles are protected by both the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Florida Marine Protection Act.
2. **If you see an injured or dead sea turtle, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or \*FWC from your cell phone**. Be prepared to answer these questions: What is the exact location of the animal? Is the turtle alive or dead? What is the approximate size of the turtle? Is the turtle marked with spray paint? (This indicates that the turtle has been documented.) What is the location of the closest access point to the turtle?
3. **Enjoy your day at the beach.** Setting yourself up at the beach can begin at 7a at the earliest during turtle season. Fill in any holes you created and tear down any sand castles you had fun building. This helps the turtle’s path to and from the nest to be as natural and clear as possible. Do not leave any beach furniture or equipment on the beach past 9p.
4. **Please take your trash with when you leave the beach.**
5. **Avoid going to the beach at night.** If you must be on the beach at night, limit your walking and do not use flashlights or flash photography. The light may cause the female to abort the nesting process, or other sea turtles nearby may be discouraged from nesting if there are lights on the beach.
6. **Turn off outside lanai and balcony lights and shield indoor lights from shining directly onto the beach by closing the drapes/blinds at night.** **Outdoor string lights are also prohibited.** Lights disturb nesting sea turtles and hatchlings. The City of Bonita Springs has lighting ordinances and will fine uncompliant owners. Please make sure your beachfront lights are in compliance with the law.
7. **Avoid disturbing marked sea turtle nests.** These are clearly staked and boxed with tape to protect the nest area.
8. **When crossing a berm/dune, please use designated cross overs and walk ways.** Do not climb over the berms/dunes or disturb the vegetation that lives there.