



Forest Hills Club

Nudist Etiquette



In the naturist world, a big part of being welcoming means that everyone, visitors, guests, and members, feels safe in a friendly atmosphere. So be friendly, but don't be a "creep."

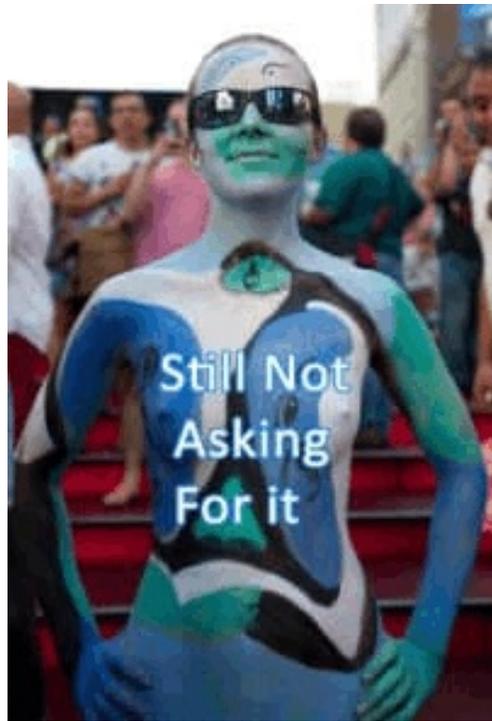
How Do You Define Creepiness?

While it's hard to define what constitutes creepy behavior, people "know it when they see it." It seems creepiness is related to the social cues a person may exhibit. In a nudist club's environment, such as Forest Hills Club's, we want to ensure that all members and daily visitors know that our intention is to ensure that no one feels uncomfortable in personal interactions.

People from different backgrounds and cultures may interact differently. What may seem completely normal for one individual may not be perceived as such by another. It is also important to understand that most people are far more aware and sensitive to the behavior of others when they are in a social nudism environment. This heightened sensitivity makes it more likely for people to misinterpret the behavior of others. So, in any situation, whether naked or clothed, as difficult as it may be, it is essential to communicate and address problem issues immediately and directly.

If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, first try to make them aware of this. If you feel you can't address the problem yourself, it's important to understand delaying to report an issue often makes it very difficult to rectify the situation. Please know that you should come forward to report the issue to office personnel; you will be taken seriously and the problem will be addressed.

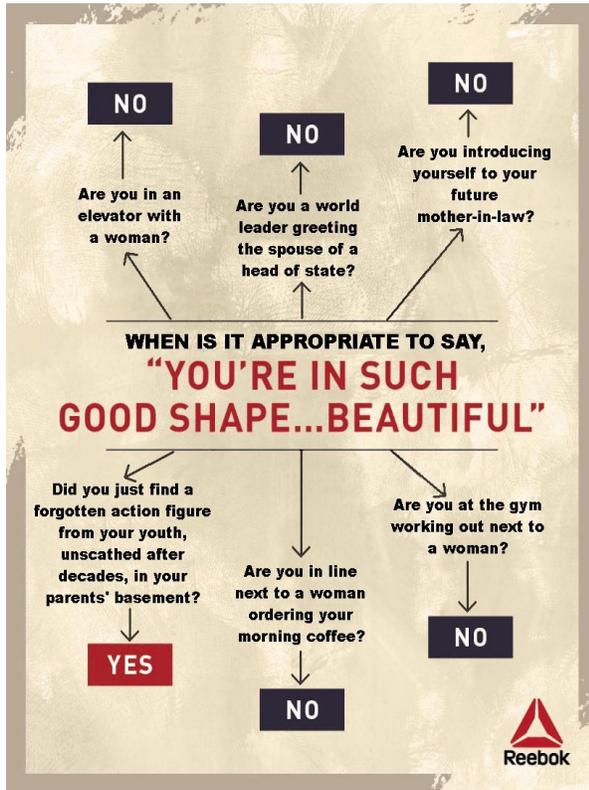
Both men and women may notice what they perceive as creepy behavior. But the vast majority of cases are noticed by women, since in our hyper-sexualized society which promotes ads sexualizing women's bodies and where women are subjected



to harassment on a daily basis, women are already primed to be alert for problems and to be wary of others.

How Can I Not Appear Creepy?

Here are some points about behavior etiquette and avoiding creepy behavior when interacting with others, especially in a nudist or socially nude situation.



Don't make comments on others' bodies or appearance, even if it's meant as a "compliment." Sometimes if you know the person, compliments are okay. But this should really be avoided if you don't. Naked women in a social nudist setting aren't there for you to appreciate, just like your own naked body is not there to be on display for them. So guys, please don't think women want your feedback on their appearance, even if it's positive. There's a reason we refer to unsolicited feedback as "harassment." Sometimes even long-term resort members may offer unwanted compliments in an attempt to be friendly and not realize that this is considered creepy behavior by many women.

Don't initiate physical touch with people you just met. Some people aren't generally comfortable with physical touch from their acquaintances. Also, an

innocent touch can feel a lot more intimate when naked versus while being clothed. This includes hugging, putting an arm around someone's shoulders or waist, kissing a hand, or actually any physical contact beyond a handshake. If you don't know someone that well and if you're not sure they'd welcome a hug or any kind of touch, it's cool to ask them if it's okay first. (And don't take it personally if the answer is no.)

Look but don't stare. In a social situation, we all look and see each other's entire body. The issue becomes a problem when the person is naked and you stare (hint: it means to look fixedly at something). Doing this is one sure way of making someone feel violated.

Be friendly but not persistent. This should be obvious, but most people don't want to be followed around by someone they just met. Women in particular may perceive a man as creepy if he's making excuses to talk to her again and again, or seems to follow her from place to place.

**Naturism is about
respect
for yourself,
for others,
and the earth.**

Look a person in the eyes when you're talking to them. Many feel that avoiding eye contact when talking to someone is a universally "creepy" behavior. In a social nude setting, this becomes even more amplified if you're looking at the other person's body (such as fixating on someone's breasts or genitals) instead of looking them in the eye when they're talking to you.

Finally, it's possible for intentions to be misinterpreted, and it's possible to unintentionally make someone uncomfortable. Some people don't know or don't realize what they're doing. Other times people may just be socially awkward.

But even if you didn't have ill intentions, it doesn't mean you're not at fault. You still overstepped a boundary or did something which distressed someone else. If you've learned that you are in fact guilty of this, then it's time to listen, apologize and adjust your behavior so as not to do it again in the future.

In an effort to keep any nudist setting safe and positive, people should err on the side of caution. Don't assume your attention, your conversation or your physical touch is always welcomed. Being respectful requires being aware of your behavior and how it affects others. People make mistakes, but if you do make someone else uncomfortable, be willing to listen and apologize. We've published these guidelines to help create a better environment for everyone.

I have a concern. What do I do?

If something is making you uncomfortable, please come to the office to let us know. We'll take immediate steps to assist you. "If you see something, say something." We want all of our members and guests to feel comfortable here.

This article is partially adapted from a posting from <https://felicitysblog.com> by **Felicity Jones**, July 14, 2017

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