

## **5. Notes on basic GPS use and functions**

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### **What can you use a GPS for?**

- Measuring location (latitude, longitude – elevation is also included) – this is termed **Waypoints** and is the most important function

### **Can I use my GPS anywhere?**

- GPS units can work anywhere in the world, in any weather, 24 hours a day
- The basic units described here will give up to about 4-5 meters horizontal accuracy and 15-20 meters vertical accuracy
- GPS units will **not** work inside
- If you use a GPS next tall buildings or in dense forest, you may get problems in receiving the signal

### **What is the best way to use a GPS?**

- Make sure the unit has two AA batteries installed – Alkaline are best
- Always write down location coordinates, elevation and waypoint number – even if you plan to download data
- Always use a GPS to record location data!

### **Is there anything else I should remember?**

- Do not block the antenna (located just above the word “Etrex” on the front of Garmin GPS) with your fingers or head
- Always carry an extra set of two AA Alkaline batteries