

TENT TIPS



1. Before Use

Get to know your tent – practice erecting it before you go away and check all components against the check list provided. We recommend that cotton tents be erected before departure and given a thorough wetting in order to 'weather' the canvas (see tip no. 5).



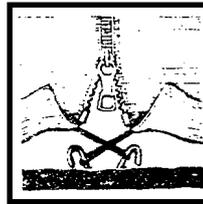
2. Pitching

Select a suitably flat area and remove any stones etc. If rain is likely, avoid water courses. Face doorways away from prevailing winds, and make use of natural windbreaks – i.e. hedges, trees. Do not pitch under trees – they carry on dripping long after rain and some may also drop a sticky sap on your tent.



3. Pegs and Rubbers

Always drive in pegs at an angle to get the best grip in the soil, and do not overstretch rubber guy loops. When possible peg down in line with the seam of the canvas. Never use the rubber guy loops to pull out pegs – use a proper peg extractor or another peg.



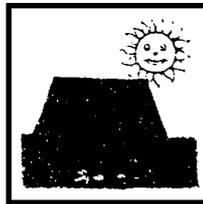
4. Zips

Treat them gently – never force them. Always take strain off by cross pegging at the base, and keep closed when not in use. Always peg your tent with zips closed. Metal zips can be waxed if they become stiff to use; nylon ones do not need attention provided the teeth are kept clean. Always close zips before packing up your tent.



5. Wet Weather

If it rains make sure you and your belongings don't chaff against the tent fabric – this may allow water to seep in. Cotton fabrics may – on first wetting after a hot spell – let in a fine spray of water until the fibres swell and close up the weave. Keep cotton canvas under good, all-round tension to prevent any shrinkage. Rain or



6. Dry Weather

All cotton fabrics, including tent cloths, can be weakened by prolonged exposure to strong sunlight and fading can occur. With normal holiday or weekend use, a tent will have many years of life, but if it is left standing for several months in a sunny climate, degradation can take place. If such usage is envisaged then it would

dew will tighten the canvas and if doorway zips become difficult to close, reposition the pegs near the door to remove the strain from the zip.

be wise to seek a shady site.



7. Condensation

Occurs most frequently in all-nylon tents especially in humid conditions. Don't confuse with leaking. The moisture in the air and your breath forms beads or drops of water when the temperature falls, i.e. during the night. Increasing the ventilation helps.



8. Fire

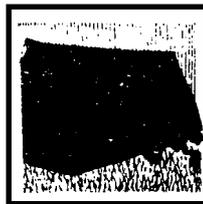
Keep naked flames and gas appliances away from tent materials. NEVER change gas supplies or refuel paraffin stoves inside the tent and keep well away from naked flames and don't smoke. Don't cook inside small tents and avoid oil splashes. Keep a fire extinguisher handy. If the tent catches alight, drop the tent to the ground

quickly by removing the poles.



9. Striking camp

If possible pack up when the tent is dry. Scrape or brush off any mud or grass from the tent, groundsheet and poles. Fold carefully with zips closed to the size of the carrying bag(s) and roll up towards the door to let air escape. If you have to pack up when the tent is wet, it should be FULLY erected and pegged out under tension as



10. Mildew

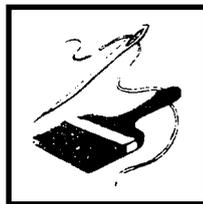
Mildew is a fungus which attacks cotton only in a wet or damp condition when stored. Eventually it will rot the cloth completely if not checked. Any early signs should be treated. Dry out thoroughly and air well, brush carefully, and re-proof the area if necessary. Sever cases may need to be cut out and patched or panel replaced.

soon as possible and allowed to dry thoroughly – especially on the seams. Failure to do this may result in MILDEW – a cotton tent's worst enemy.



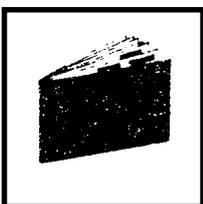
11. Storage

When not in use, tents are best stored opened out but always in a cool, dry, light and well-aired place. If this is not possible, give the tent a good airing on a sunny, dry day at least once or twice during the winter. Never store if damp. Always pack poles and pegs carefully to avoid damaging canvas or ground sheet in transit.



12. Maintenance

Dirt and stains can be removed either by brushing or by gentle washing with a mild soap solution – never use detergents, and don't scrub. Rinse well and dry. Re-proof only if necessary. If tent fabrics start to leak or wear thin, seams or panels can be re-proofed with any proprietary spray, solution or wax. Such products give full instructions. Small holes and tears should be patched, eyelets checked and renewed if necessary.



13. Optional Extras

Don't forget, there is a range of extras for your extra comfort; a flysheet for a ridge tent or angle poles to replace an upright. Lounge groundsheet and awnings can add considerably to your comfort.



14. A Final Note

With proper use, care and attention your tent will give many years of service. We hope you enjoy your camping!