



3 metre Bell Tent Instructions

Hello and thanks for buying one of our 3 metre Bell Tents. Here is the best way to put up your 3m Bell Tent. The basics are the same as putting up any Bell Tent it's just slightly different when it comes to fitting the main pole as the 3m Bell Tent has a three pole system which means you don't have a centre pole in the middle stopping you using a double bed.

If you look at the bottom of this document you will see a list of tips to help you get years of use out of your tent but the golden rule is:

ALWAYS, WITHOUT FAIL, STORE YOUR BELL TENT BONE DRY OR YOU RUN THE RISK OF GETTING A MOULDY TENT!

Enjoy! And please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any more questions, good ideas on better ways of bell tenting or just to send in pictures of you Camping with Soul for the gallery on the site.

Putting up a 3m Bell Tent

These instructions are pretty much the same whatever version you have of the 3m Bell Tent. We will show it for the standard version so if you have a Deluxe or Ultimate just take the general pointers and remember you will have less pegs as your groundsheet and canvas are attached. Also if you have the Ultimate always keep the groundsheet and canvas zipped together as it's much faster to put up and take down that way and easier to zip and unzip when the tent is up.

- 1) Unpack the bell tent and lay the groundsheet on the ground. Find the door and rotate the tent so it's facing the desired direction. If a standard tent the door side of the groundsheet is the longest side.





- 2) Take the small pegs and pulling the groundsheet tight peg it out all the way round. Then put the canvas on top of the groundsheet and match the door up. Taking the next size peg up go round pegging the bottom of the canvas right next to the corresponding groundsheet peg. (If Deluxe or Ultimate just use the small pegs and peg out groundsheet with tent attached.)
- 3) Open the door and you are now going to create the structure below but inside the Bell Tent.



- 4) Looking at the crown of the tent you'll notice two of the legs what tape on them. Match these with the legs with tape and the leg without the tape goes at the back of the tent opposite the door (clever eh)





- 4) Next take the remainder of the poles and assemble the A frame but leave one of the top sections unclipped as this will make it much easier to get it through the door and into the tent. Once inside open the A frame fully and put the metal spike, which is on the top of the frame, through the matching hole in the canvas above the door and tie it into place using the cord attached. Now edge the A frame forward until the legs are just off the ground sheet and then push them slightly back against the edge to stop them slipping. (If you have a Deluxe or Ultimate there is a foot on the groundsheet to put it in.)



- 5) Zip the door shut and fit the plastic rain cap to the A frame spike. Using the large pegs attach the first guy rope above the door. Then do the guy ropes around the whole tent without putting any of them under too much tension as you don't want the tent leaning.



N.B. All the guy ropes need to follow the lines of the seams in the roof. Adjust the guy rope slider so you have approx 50cm of loop to the peg. This allows adjustment in both directions. It is important to make sure the Bell Tent stays symmetrical and that the tension is evenly spread.



8) Once all the pegs are in then go round adjusting the guy ropes to create the desired tension. By doing it this way and following the seam lines your Bell Tent will look like this: perfect and without creases.



TIP: If the door seems too tight move the two guy ropes either side of the door in towards the middle of the door to relieve some tension.

9) Now go back inside and make sure the three legs of the centre frame and matched up with the seams and secure them in place using the ties.



10) If you have the standard tent then from the inside of the tent you can go around taking one groundsheet peg out at a time, pulling the wall flap underneath to match the holes up and re-peg for a good seal.

There you go **Job done!!!**



Don't forget to deck it out with your personal touches and then, you are Camping with Soul..... Enjoy xx



How to pack up a Bell Tent & get it back into it's bag!

Here are some tips on packing up your bell tent after use.

As stated all over the set up instructions it is **VITAL** that your bell tent is stored bone dry otherwise it will get attacked by mould. Its fine taking it down damp however, you **MUST** ensure you hang it up to dry within 24 hours. You don't have to set the tent up again, just hang it on a washing line, over a car or over some chairs. Basically it just needs some air.

This is how to get your tent back in the bag without hassle

1. Take all the poles and pegs out of the tent while keeping the canvas off the grass. This helps keep your tent clean and grass stain free. Without standing on the canvas fold half of the tent over so you have a half moon with the groundsheet facing up



2. Let that half of the groundsheet dry out and you might want to wipe off any mud or worm casks. If it's not a dry day you'll need to dry the tent out when you get home. The idea is that you always have canvas touching canvas and groundsheet touching groundsheet so even if the tent is wet you avoid stains. Once the condensation has dried off you need to flick the half moon over so the other half of the groundsheet can also dry out. (We find it's a good idea to move the tent off it's original spot to avoid putting the condensation back onto the first half)



3. Once the whole tent is dry you now need to fold the half moon over on itself again and again so you end up with a strip the width of the tent bag. The best was to do this to put the bag at the top of the bag and use it as a template to get the right width.



4. Now fold the strip in half and place the pole bag and peg bag at one end. Roll the whole thing into a tight bundle using the ties to secure the tent as a roll. Next lift one end and slip the bag over the tent.



Bingo you've done it!

Enjoy your bell tent and remember please only store it bone dry.
Many thanks and feel free to call us if you get stuck

Other info.

Cotton shrinks when wet, making itself waterproof when it rains.
The first time your tent gets wet it may leak a little, don't worry THIS IS TOTALLY NORMAL!!

Once it dries out for the first time that shrinkage closes up any little holes to ensure it won't happen again.

The canvas has been impregnated to protect it from dirt, ultraviolet radiation and fungus. This makes it mould resistant but not mould proof.
If the canvas remains damp in a place where mould can grow, eventually mould will grow. If you put your tent up in a damp corner of the garden next to a hedge or under a tree long term it will eventually get mouldy. (As would a car or anything left there)

Therefore it's worth considering the right spot that has some ventilation as mould is not covered by the manufacturers warranty.



Advantages of a cotton canvas tent:

- Strong
- Breathing and humidity regulating

Disadvantages of a cotton canvas tent:

- Dries slowly
- Sensitive for dirt and fungus

Maintenance:

- The cotton must be bone dry before storing the tent.
- Never keep the tent stored away wet for longer than two days otherwise fungus can affect the canvas which will then create little black irremovable dots.
- The canvas has been impregnated with anti-fungi and made waterproof that is effective for up to 60 weeks of use. (so a year) Once used passed this period of camping you may need to re-proof certain areas that appear more translucent. Please contact us, if this is the case as we also sell re-proofer.
- Maintenance starts when setting up your Bell Tent. If a Bell Tent has not been set up correctly uneven forces will pull on the canvas. This could eventually lead to damage. To ensure your tent stays set up correctly daily guy rope maintenance is necessary.
- It is in your interest to keep the canvas as clean as possible and remove stains when created. Dust and dried mud is best removed once the canvas is dry by brushing clean hard brush like a floor scrubbing brush.

Lifespan:

The lifespan of your tent is very dependent upon camping conditions; air pollution, ultraviolet radiation, natural dirt (bird droppings, sand, salt water) and domestic dirt (cooking stains, soda, wine, sun cream) as these all limit the lifespan of your cotton canvas tent.

The canvas or your tent should be good for over 60 weeks of outdoor usage if cared for correctly.

Zippers:

Zippers sometime have to endure extreme tension caused by wind, incorrect tent set ups or pressures caused by people or objects leaning into the tent.

In order to limit damage to any zippers

- Close all zippers before setting up your tent.
- Handle the zippers with care.
- To protect the zippers treat them with silicones once in a while.
- Verify zippers before setting up your tent as there is no insurance on zippers after use.



Fungus and stains:

Due to insufficient ventilations fungus can affect the canvas. It is important to store your tent dry so no fungus or other stains can appear. If you have to temporarily store the tent wet be sure to remove the mud and dirt from the bottom of the tent put your tent back out to dry within 48 hours.

In order to limit fungus and stains on your tent

- Store your tent 100% dry.
- When dealing with fungus use a soft brush or sponge and a lot of fresh water. Only use specialised tent cleaning product to remove difficult stains. Other chemical products can cause the cotton to leak. We suggest you have your tent re-impregnated with waterproofer is any area has been cleaned using a cleaning product.

Leaking:

Cotton can, when new, let some air through and leak around the seams. After the canvas has been wet once this will no longer happen because of the cotton expanding. Very light stains can appear on a wet tent. These stains cause no problems.

In order to preserve your tents water resistance and prolong its lifespan after a considerable amount of use the outside of the canvas can be re-treated with a sealant. There are many good spray can sealants on the market. We also sell re-proofer.



History of Bell Tents

The Bell Tent is a type of tent with walls (about 60cm high) are held up by a single central pole (up to 3 metres high). It has a circular floor plan up to 5 metres across. Guy ropes were connected every 60cm around the top of the walls - these had to be carefully tensioned to hold the pole upright and keep the tent in shape. Original bell tents had no porches but A frames were added later to create a vertical door that is more resistant to letting in the rain.

The Bell Tent was invented by Henry Hopkins Sibley, who had studied the Tipi Tent during the expeditions he carried out in the Old West. He patented his tent design in 1858. In accordance in an agreement with the Department of War, he would have received five dollars for every tent they made. However, Sibley joined the Confederate States Army after the outbreak of the American Civil War and did not receive the royalty. The Federal Army used almost 44,000 Bell Tents during the war. After Sibley's death, his relatives attempted unsuccessfully to collect the royalties.

We have taken the classic Bell Tent design and have brought it up to date using modern materials and proofing meaning it's no longer necessary to hump around a heavy old tent that leaks if you touch it in the rain. We are constantly updating our tents with developments like the Ultimate and are always happy to listen to peoples ideas on how improve things.

We hope you have many seasons of enjoyment from your tent and hope to see you in a field soon.

Enjoy!!

www.belltent.co.uk info@belltent.co.uk +447830 355993