



Hello and thanks for buying one of our Bell Tents.

Here is the best way to put up your Bell Tent.

One person is shown doing this but the more people there are, the faster it goes up. (Our current record is 10 mins for a Standard 4 metre)

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 Standard Bell Tent



1) Unpack the bell tent

2) Lay out the ground sheet and find the slightly longer side which is where the door goes. Rotate the ground sheet so the door is facing the desired direction and pin it down tightly with the smallest set of pegs



3) Make sure door is zipped shut and lift the canvas onto the ground sheet. Line up the tent's door zip with the middle of the longest side of the groundsheet.



4) Now peg each of the loops at the bottom of the canvas walls right next to the corresponding peg in the groundsheet using the medium sized pegs. The closer you put them the better the seal you'll get at the end.

### TIPS

- Don't put the pegs through the rubber flap on the bottom of the wall as it will rip in wind
- Using the groundsheet as a template ensures the tent will be the right shape when it goes up.
- Always keep the canvas on the groundsheet and off the ground as it helps to stop it getting dirty.

5) Get out the poles and extend them. Unzip the door and take the main pole with rubber stoppers at each end inside the tent. Find the top/centre of the tent and match it with end of the pole. Then pull the pole in and up so you raise the roof of the tent. This will be easy as there is very little tension at this point.



6) Stand next to the pole and adjust the bottom to make it as upright as possible. The pole will stay upright as there is just enough tension to hold it vertical.



7) 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(see picture) and into the tent.

Once inside open the A frame fully and put the metal spike, which is on the top of the A frame, through the matching hole in the canvas above the door. 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.



8) Leave the tent and using the large pegs attach the first guy rope above the door. Then zip up the door and do the guy ropes either side of the door.

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 the Bell Tent stays symmetrical and that the tension is evenly spread.

It is also important not to have too much tension on any of the guy ropes at this point. Get all the pegs 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.



9) Finally go inside the tent and tuck the flap/ plastic skirt at the bottom of the canvas walls under the ground sheet folding the flap to go round the ground sheet pegs



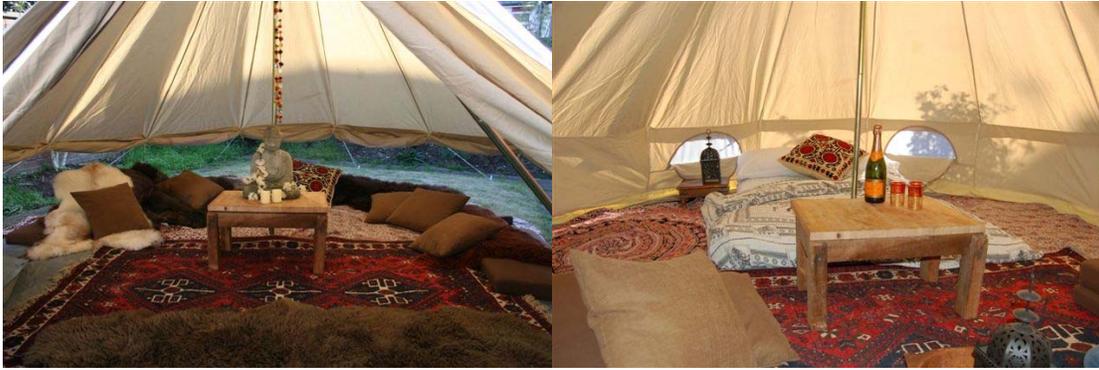
There you go

Job done!!!

### **Walls up?**

If it's a hot day there is nothing better than rolling the walls up and letting the breeze brush over you. Simply unhook the loops at the bottom of the canvas walls from the pegs and roll up (inwards) and tie using the strings provided. We usually use a slip knot (loop through loop) to save time and effort when it's time to roll them back down again.

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 (not the groundsheet) and fold the tent over itself so you have a double layer half moon. Keep the tent on the groundsheet and off the ground to keep it clean and dry.



2. Place the tent bag above the top of the tent so you have a template for how wide you want the tent to end up. Now start folding in from the sides but keep the top of the fold away from the top of the tent keeping it the right thickness to fit in the bag



3. Keep folding in from each side while making sure to keep the top of the tent from becoming a thin point



4. Once you have folded the tent into a strip that is the same width as the bag fold both ends in so you end up all the guy ropes tied in and a strip of canvas about

a metre long. Next take the canvas off ground sheet. Remember to keep it off grass if the grass is wet)

5. Now un-peg the ground sheet, turn it over and give it a couple of minutes for the condensation to dry off the bottom. You may want to put a couple of pegs back in to stop it being blow away and it's a good idea to not put it on the same spot as before as you'll get condensation on the new underside.
6. Once both sides are dry fold the groundsheet in half and in half again so you end up with a strip the same width as the folded tent. Now fold it over on itself until you end up with a square (Sometimes it's not possible to get the ground sheet bone dry in the field, if that's the case roll up the dry tent into it's bag, roughly pack up the wet ground sheet and pop it in something water proof. Once home dry it out and continue putting the tent away)



7. Now place the groundsheet on the folded tent, followed by the pole bag and peg bag and then roll the whole thing into a tight bundle using the ties to secure the tent in 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. 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 if 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 whose walls (about 3ft high) are held up by a single central pole (some 10 ft. high). It has a circular floor plan of some 10 ft to 15 ft across. Guy ropes were connected every 2ft around the top of the walls - these had to be carefully tensioned to hold the pole upright and keep the tent in shape. Iron reinforcements were then added to the top opening.

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.

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