



Hello and thanks for buying one of our tipi tents.

Here is the best way to put your tent up. One person is shown doing this but the more there are the faster it goes up.

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.

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

## Putting up a Tipi Tent

Some general advice

- We advise having 2 people to erect the tent as it will simplify the work but it's fine with just one if you follow the instructions below.
- Find a flat place big enough to put up your tent comfortably (including the guy ropes) and remove all sharp objects, roots etc. to prevent damaging the groundsheet.
- Be careful when you put the tent under tension with the guy ropes and always try to keep the tension even.
- Make sure all zippers are closed before you peg out the tent and again when you adjust the guy ropes and also make sure the guy ropes are pegged out in line with the tent seams.

**Now this is how to do it properly.**



1) Unpack the tent

2) Lay out the ground sheet as flat as possible and peg it down with the small pegs to stop it from blowing away. You then should only keep the tent on the groundsheet and off the floor. This stops it getting stained.





3) Now you need to do a one off stringing. This will take around 20 mins but you only need to do it the once. The Tipi will take around a total of 10 mins to erect.



Lay all the ropes WITHOUT adjusters out on the groundsheet and tie them to the cap.



4) Now lay the tipi out on the groundsheet with the crown next to the cap. You'll see that the bottom of the cap and the top of the crown have matching Velcro patches. Line them up and stick them together. We recommend that you set it up so that the slit on the cap is facing away from where the door is as this will stop the ropes getting in the way when you open and close the Tipi Cone flap.

5) Next job is again a one off and is connecting the remaining adjustable guy ropes to the two points on the side of the tent.



Take the end of a guy rope with an adjuster and thread it through the top loop top to bottom. Then pull it down and through the second loop (top to bottom). Make sure you thread through the end without the adjuster.



6) Take the same end and doubling it over create a loop and tie it off.



7) Hurray, that's the stringing over for a bit - time to put your tipi up!  
Position the door in the direction you want it and start pegging down the adjustable straps next to the corresponding pegs on the groundsheet. Don't tighten the straps yet or you won't be able to get the pole in!



8) Now unzip the door and carry the main pole inside. Locate the end in the middle of the webbing and feed the pole in until it's vertical.

9) Come out and zip up the door, Go round the tent pulling the adjustable straps round the pegs tight.

10) Now it's time for the last of the stringing (again this is a one off as you leave them connected). Take the bottom of the ropes coming from the cap and starting on the side opposite the slit follow the seams down and thread the end through the two eyelets at the bottom and tie off. As you go round you will see there are more ropes than seams, this is correct as you are looking to create an overlap at the slit.





11) Once you get to the slit leave the last two ropes loose. Using them you can now open and close the flap for ventilation and tie the rope off at the nearest vertical guy you can find.



12) Now all you have to do is peg in the stabilising guyropes using the last of the larger pegs and use the adjuster to put some tension on them. Don't put so much on that you distort the shape of the tipi and follow the line of the seam when positioning the peg. Put the peg through the loop and it's important to thread the peg through the lower bit of the adjuster otherwise it doesn't work.



### Tipi UK Top Tip

We've found that the Tipi stands up fine without guyropes pegged out in all but the worst weather. We advise you use them but if in a hurry or at a festival you might consider not using them as they create a spiders web of ropes for pissed revellers to get caught up in during the night....



13) Finally go round the tent tucking the skirt under the groundsheet from the inside of the tent to create a weather resistant seal. It's worth taking the time to do this properly to avoid leaks.

Job done!!

Next time you put your Tipi up it will take a fraction of the time and you should find it takes around 10 mins.

Enjoy.....

## Taking down your Tipi and getting it back in the bag.

You might think this is telling you how to suck eggs but if you follow this routine your tent will stay clean, dry and last you for years.

It is VITAL that your tent is stored Bone Dry. If you have to take it down wet get it straight out when you get home and hang it over something to start drying it out. If you wait a day or so you run the risk of mould. Once you get that you're stuck with it as it grows in the material not just on it.

Hang it on a washing line, in the garage or over furniture, anywhere where it can start to dry.

## Taking down the Tipi.

The idea is to take the tent down on its groundsheet. This way it doesn't touch the ground and get stained and muddy.

- 1) Get everything out of tent and brush out mud and dirt
- 2) Remove pegs on guyropes
- 3) Loosen Adjustable straps and bottom of wall (Don't take out yet)
- 4) Remove central pole and tent will drop on itself





- 5) Zip up door
- 6) Remove pegs at bottom of wall but not groundsheet pegs
- 7) Either take shoes off or crawl onto the tent and pull the top to one side
- 8) Go round throwing all the guy ropes onto the centre of the tent
- 9) Put the bag next to the tent so you can tell how thick a roll you need to create.
- 10) Take one side and fold over towards the middle so the edge ends up in the middle of the tent.



- 11) Repeat on the other side
- 12) Repeat the folding until you end up with a roll the same width as the bag.
- 13) Fold in half towards the bag, Repeat
- 14) Now roll up and place roll on bag to stop grass stains.



- 15) Now un-peg the groundsheet. Unless you are in the driest of dry conditions there will be condensation from the grass on the underside. You need to let this dry off so, weather permitting, flip the ground sheet over (don't do it on the same spot as the condensation was) and give it a couple of mins to dry off. A couple of pegs will stop it flying away and consider laying it over something dry if the grass around is wet. (car, tarmac, fence, whatever) Not doing this means your storing a damp tent + possible mould.) If you have to take it home damp pack it separately to the tent, dry it off when home and then pack together.



16) If you have to take the groundsheet home wet underneath try folding it in on itself so the wet bottom to next to wet bottom and the outside was the upside in the tent and will be dry.



17) Once dry fold in on itself until you end up with a strip the same width as the tent and fold it on itself until you have a square. Then slightly unroll the tent. Put the groundsheet, poles and pegs on top and roll around them to create a roll the correct size for the bag.

18) Use the ties to secure the roll and put it in the bag,

Job done and as the poles and pegs are secure in the middle of the tent they are protected and you won't leave them behind. (You'd be amazed how many calls we get from people in fields on weekends desperate for poles or pegs that were left at home!)

## Cleaning mud off my Tipi Tent

What with the British weather odds on you'll get mud splattered onto it at some point.

The best way to get it off is to leave it alone until it's dried out. If that means taking the tent out again when you get home then that's what you need to do.

Once the tent is bone dry a stiff hand brush will work miracles. If you mess around with wet mud and wet cloths you'll end up just rubbing it in.

To clean the Groundsheet wash it with a hose and brush or not too powerful jetwash and allow to dry.

Any problems feel free to call us, even if it's a weekend we'll try and answer or email us at [info@belltent.co.uk](mailto:info@belltent.co.uk). We're always looking for better ways of doing things so please let us know if you have any ideas of how to do anything quicker or better.

We hope you have loads of fun with your tent and as long as it's stored correctly it should give you years of pleasure.

ENJOY and see you in a field soon!!



### **Here's some other general info.**

Cotton.

Cotton tent canvas can be divided into three different kinds: lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight canvas.

Lightweight canvas weighs between 130 and 180 gr/m<sup>2</sup> and is suited for lightweight expeditions on foot.

Middleweight canvas weighs between 180 and 220 gr/m<sup>2</sup> and is used for tents designed to remain for longer periods in one place.

Heavyweight canvas weighs 220 to 320 gr/m<sup>2</sup>. Bungalow tents, group tents and army tents are being made out of this.

## **Therefore U just bought what is rated as a heavy-weight canvas tent.**

Cotton shrinks when wet, making itself waterproof when it rains. The canvas has been impregnated to protect it from dirt, ultraviolet radiation and fungus.

Advantages Cotton / Canvas:

- Strong
- Breathing and humidity regulating

Disadvantages cotton:

- Dries slowly
- Sensitive for dirt and fungus

Maintenance:

The cotton must be 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 create little black irremovable dots. The canvas has been impregnated with anti-fungi but when using the tent often this process should be repeated every two years. Maintenance starts when setting up the tent. When the tent has not been erected properly uneven forces will pull on the canvas. This could eventually lead to damage. It is in your interest to keep the canvas as clean as possible and remove stains when created. Dust can best be wiped away with a soft brush, soft!



#### 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) limit the lifespan of your cotton canvas tent.

- Lightweight canvas last 15 to 40 weeks.
- Middle-weight cotton canvas 20 to 40 weeks
- Heavy-weight canvas 40 to 60 weeks of outdoor usage.

#### Zippers:

Zippers sometime have to endure extreme tension caused by wind, badly erected, pressures caused by people or object leaning into the tent.

#### Tip:

- Close all zippers before erecting the tent.
- Handle the zippers with care.
- To protect the zippers treat them with silicones once in a while.
- Verify zippers before using, 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. When 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 ASAP.

#### Tip:

- 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 after washing it.

#### 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, this causes no problems. Mainly because of ultraviolet radiation working in on the tent this layer will wear down no longer making the tent waterproof.

#### Tip:

- To preserve your tents water resistance and prolong its lifespan, the outside should be regularly treated with a sealant (good spay can sealants on the market)

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