



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).

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!

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 Ultimate Bell Tent

- 1) Unpack the Bell Tent and lay out the groundsheet. Find the door and rotate the groundsheet so it's facing the desired direction (make sure the tags for pegging it down are on the outside and you don't have it inside out)



- 2) Place the canvas on top of the groundsheet (again make sure it's the right way round and the guy ropes are outside) and line the door up with the doorway on the ground sheet

TIP:

Even though the groundsheet and tent may come separately we recommend you keep them zipped together and only unzip when you need a breeze. The tent is much faster to put up and down that way. If the total weight is too much to carry across a festival consider separating the tent and groundsheet and doing two trips to the car

- 3) Zip the canvas and the groundsheet together all the way round (apart from the door)



- 4) Take the small pegs and, pulling the groundsheet tight, peg it out (the tent is designed so you use the same pegs for the groundsheet and the straps on the bottom of the walls)



- 5) Take the main straight pole through the door, find the centre of the cone and push the pole and tent up until it's vertical
- 6) Put the A frame together and place inside the door (it's easier to get it through the door if you complete putting it together once inside). Put the spike through the hole as the top of the door and fit the feet into their holding pockets.



- 7) Zip the door shut and, using the large pegs, attach the first guy rope above the door. Then attach the rest of the guy ropes around the whole tent without putting any of them under too much tension.



NB 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, adjust 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.



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. You can roll up the whole tent or just a section. Simply unzip the section you want up, roll the wall up from the inside 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 its 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 whilst 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
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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 flip 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 way to do this is to put the bag at the top of the tent 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 manufacturer's 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 permanent little, black 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 you have 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 with a clean hard brush like a floor scrubbing brush.

Lifespan:

The lifespan of your tent is very dependent upon camping conditions such as 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.

As mentioned, the canvas or your tent should be good for over 60 weeks of outdoor usage if cared for correctly.

Zippers:

Zippers sometimes 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
- protect them by treating them with silicones once in a while
- verify zippers before setting up your tent, as there is no insurance on them after use

Fungus and stains:

Due to insufficient ventilation, 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 as 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 tent's 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, and we also sell re-proofer.

History of Bell Tents

The Bell Tent is a type of tent with walls (about 60cm high) that 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 and, 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 unsuccessfully attempted 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!!

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