

Tent Maintenance

Scouts are responsible for the tents. Scouts who take a tent home after a campout are responsible for drying, cleaning, and storing it. We ask the parents to ensure that the Scouts take this responsibility seriously so that the tents last many years.

Drying – A tent must be completely dry before storing it. No tent-care rule is more important. If a tent is left wet, even damp, mildew will overtake it, thus degrading the waterproofing integrity and causing a foul smell. After EVERY trip we take, we need to unpack our tents and set them up in a shady spot (a garage, basement, or shady tree) and let them air dry. If you can't set it up outside due to poor weather, at least spread it out inside to dry. **Tents should be set out to dry the same day that we return home from camping.**

Cleaning – If the campout is wet and muddy (most of them are), we need to clean the dirt out of the floor of the tent. This can be minimized if Scouts learn not to wear their shoes or boots into the tent. To clean the tent, **use a non-abrasive sponge, cold water, and a non-detergent soap.** Gently scrub soiled areas by hand. Avoid household cleaners such as dishwashing liquid, bleach, spot removers, or laundry pre-soaking products. (Why? Virtually all household soaps are perfumed and will attract bugs, mice, and other small critters like bears. These soaps also mask a tent's durable water-repellent coating.) Rinse thoroughly, then set it up in a shady spot and let it air dry completely.

Storage – You will carefully fold & roll the tent tightly to fit it back in the bag. Make sure that all air is out of the tent as you roll the folded tent. **Do not roll the poles into the tent.** Verify the poles, rainfly, tent, and stakes are in the tent bag. **Return the tent at the next Troop meeting.**

Tent Inspection Sheet

This tent was inspected and packed by:

Scout: _____ Adult/parent: _____

Date: _____ Tent number: _____

Number of tent stakes: _____ Campuout: _____

	Circle condition for each row				
Tent Bag	Good	Fair	Poor	Broken	Missing
Pole Bag	Good	Fair	Poor	Broken	Missing
Stake Bag	Good	Fair	Poor	Broken	Missing
Tent Poles	Good	Fair	Poor	Broken	Missing
Fly Pole	Good	Fair	Poor	Broken	Missing
Tent Fly	Good	Fair	Holes	Torn	Missing
Tent Body	Good	Fair	Holes	Torn	
Tent Zipper	Good	Fair	Poor	Broken	
Pole Guides	Good	Fair	Holes	Torn	

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