



## Maintenance and Repair

### **Why do I need to Pre-Weather my Canvas / Polycotton Tent**

Canvas is a natural fabric, and as such with the right care will last for years. Being natural it needs a little bit of nature to assist in its "curing", so that the fibres swell and seal. During this period the canvas will change colour as it absorbs then dissipates the moisture.

When canvas tents are manufactured the sewing process forces thread (cotton) through two or more layers of canvas and leaves holes through the canvas where water can enter early in the life of a tent. THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM OR A FAULT. The thread used in the sewing process is designed to swell after being soaked with rain and then dried by the sun. When the process is complete, the thread entirely fills the space eliminating water entry.

### **How to Pre-Weather a Tent**

It is worth the effort to erect the tent in the garden ahead of substantial rain to weather it prior to going camping to ensure a dry comfortable trip.

#### **Part One: Rain**

Canvas tents need to be soaked through with constant 'rain' (watering with a hose is sufficient) for 2/3 hours. This is essential to the conditioning process of the canvas and seams.

#### **Part Two: Sun**

Drying out in the sun. This important step swells the cotton thread and shrinks the canvas around it forming a watertight seal. This watertight seal will last the life of the tent.

### **Looking after your canvas or polycotton tent.**

All cotton canvas and polycotton fabrics should be weathered prior to first use. Your tent, flysheet, dining shelter or canopy should be soaked with heavy rain (or hose pipe), and left to dry. Pay particular attention to seams and stitching. This will allow the fibres in the weave of the fabric and the threads, to swell and as the fabric dries the fibres contract to a tighter, weatherproof weave.

After a few months or years (very dependent on use and exposure to wind & sun), the fabric should be treated with a waterproofer, and / or a waterproofer / UV combination, such as products from Nikwax, Grangers or Stormcare. You need to keep the canvas as supple and moist as possible to keep its natural breathability and waterproofing properties, for as long as possible.

## **Dirt & mud**

It is likely your precious "home from home" will get dirty during pitching or taking down- It's unavoidable. In some cases the dried in mud can be simply be scraped off with a plastic scraper (credit card, sandwich box lid, etc). But in most cases a wipe with a damp cloth will be needed to take away the worst of the mud. If this doesn't move the dirty marks, you can try a little light detergent / washing up liquid / cleaning fluid. However, don't overdo it, as the chemicals in the detergent can "strip out" the DWR (durable waterproofing) agent within the canvas / polycotton. Trial it on the least important part of the tent; e.g. at the bottom of the wall, away from the main door.

## **If your tent is suffering from an overdose of mud, mould or mildew**

Sometimes all the light cleaning and proofing is not enough and your tent really needs a "total" clean and re-proof. We have partnered with one of the best canvas cleaners and proofers in the business - Saturn Sails. They will steam clean your tent to perfection and re-proof it. Give them a call, they can add years to the longevity of your investment.

## **Can my tent be repaired and can accessories be bought**

Yes, in our factory in Glasgow, we repair all mess tents, patrol tents, Force Ten tents and bell tents. We also supply all accessories (please see Tent Components) for completing your tenting equipment. For a repair quote, please Contact Us with as much detail as possible, and we will get back to you with a price and time for the repairs. We can also arrange pick up, with our national network of carriers. Please download the Repair Form <http://www.campingspares.co.uk/content/9-repairs> and send to us.

## **Useful contact information;**

### **Waterproofing:**

<http://www.nikwax.co.uk/en-us/products/productdetail.php?productid=502&itemid=-1&fabricid=-1>

<https://grangers.co.uk/products/fabsil-gold-liquid>

### **Third party advice:**

<http://www.stormcare.co.uk/storm-waterproofing-tips-advice>

### **Steam cleaning & re-proofing**

<http://www.saturnsails.co.uk/services.shtml>

<http://www.washandwaterproof.com/textile-tent.html>

*Blacks of Greenock 15 Dunivaig Road, Easter Queenslie Industrial Estate, Glasgow, G33 4TT*

*www.blacksofgreenock.co.uk    0044 (0) 141 773 5468    info:blacksofgreenock.co.uk*