

INSTRUCTIONS/CARE & MAINTENANCE:

Maintaining and caring for your canvas:

ZIG Bell Tent Information:

Tents have traditionally been made of canvas because of its durable character, breathability and water-resistance. Today, tents are made of many kinds of materials including nylon, polyester but canvas is still the material of choice for many experienced campers. Canvas requires a certain amount of maintenance, however, to keep it in good condition and free of mildew. Routine care of your canvas tent will go a long way toward making it last for years.

This bell tent has been treated to be water, UV and mould resistant to help protect from dirt, ultraviolet radiation and fungus. From new, your bell tent can be used straight out of the bag without any need for treatment prior to use.

Zips:

Zips are likely, at times, to endure extreme tension caused by wind, incorrect set ups or pressures caused by people or objects - here are some zip tips:

- 1) Before setting up your tent, zip the canvas and the groundsheet together all the way round - apart from the door.
- 2) Even though the groundsheet and tent may come separately, we recommend you keep them zipped together - this way you get a neater pitch, the zip's have less stress and it's faster to pitch up and take down.
- 3) Operate zips with care using a smooth, steady motion.
- 4) If a zip on your pitched bell tent seems strained, play with the tension on the guy ropes or adjust the positioning of the elastic peg loops to remove tension and ensure the zip functions correctly.
- 5) Protect zips by applying a silicone based sealant once in a while.

Care, Safety & Storage:

ALWAYS STORE YOUR BELL TENT 100% DRY TO PREVENT MOULD FROM DAMAGING THE CANVAS!

* Due to insufficient ventilation, fungus can affect the canvas so it's really important to store your tent dry to avoid fungus or other stains appearing! If you have to temporarily store your tent wet be sure to either remove the mud and dirt from under the groundsheet OR separate groundsheet from canvas until dry. Having taken down a wet tent, you **MUST** ensure to hang it up to dry within 48 hours - it's not necessary to pitch the tent again, just hang it over a table or some chairs, or over the washing line. Basically, it just needs some air to completely dry before being packed away and stored.

* Make sure the ground is level and free from sharp objects and debris which could damage the ground sheet.

* Do not pull tent pegs out of the ground using the guy ropes or fabric fittings!, use your hand or a peg extractor to remove from ground.

* Pitch the Bell Tent far away from camp fires, the recommend distance is 10 meters from naked flames. Common sense comes into play here.

Cleaning Tips:

- 1) It is in your interest to keep the canvas as clean as possible and remove dirt and stains when they first appear.
- 2) When dealing with fungus, use a soft brush or sponge and a lot of fresh water and a specialised cleaning agent - and then a re-waterproofing agent is applied.
- 3) Excess dust and dried mud is better wiped away with a soft brush before a cleaning agent - and then re-waterproofing agent is applied.
- 4) Only use specialised tent cleaning products to remove difficult stains as other domestic chemical products can cause the cotton to degrade.
- 5) We suggest you have your tent re-impregnated with a waterproofing agent if any area has been cleaned using a specialised cleaning product.
- 6) Please use cleaning agents first on your bell tent to remove stains, then waterproofing agents when canvas is completely dry after cleaning.
- 7) If using your bell tent frequently, or for long periods of time, a cleaning and re-waterproofing treatment should be applied more frequently. Although caring for your bell tent is extremely easy, general maintenance is necessary to keep your tent looking tip-top and to prolong the canvas's life span.

Re-Waterproofing:

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 great silicone sealants on the market.

If your bell tent has enough waterproofing agent present it will cause the water on the surface to bead. You will literally see beads of water forming on the outer surface of the canvas. When it is time to re-waterproof, you will notice that the water no longer beads, and the bell tent retains some moisture in the canvas.

Ultraviolet radiation can affect your bell tent and its water resistant capabilities. When re-waterproofing your bell tent look for products that also include UV protection.

Leaking:

When new, cotton canvas can sometimes leak around the seams - this is perfectly normal and once the tent has had its first light shower the weave of the canvas will shrink, just slightly, and this will no longer happen.

Repairs:

You might be surprised by the level of repair you can achieve yourself. Small rips in the canvas can literally be stitched closed using a common needle and thread, and the area will remain waterproof once sealed.

Larger rips and tears will need to be patched - just make sure to try and use the same canvas colour, and type, as the original.

If you feel the repair is beyond your capabilities then your bell tent can be taken to a professional Tent & Awning Repairer and fixed for a reasonable price.

Lifespan:

The lifespan of your bell tent is very dependent upon the camping conditions and the way you look after it. Air pollution, ultraviolet radiation, natural and domestic dirt, all limit the lifespan of your cotton canvas bell tent - in short, if you look after your tent it will look after you for many years of happy camping.