

Picking a Campsite and Setting up Your Tent

- Avoid low spots that collect water. Don't set your tent up under dead trees or branches that might fall. Pitch tent AWAY from any heat source (fires, stoves). Once you've picked a site, clear the ground of sharp objects such as stones or branches.
- Check the ground at established campsites for cinders or crushed stone. These improvements control erosion, but they can damage a tent's floor quickly. Using a ground cloth is essential.
- **Stake your tent down.** All tents need to be staked down to keep them from blowing away. Securing the tent by placing heavy objects inside is not adequate. The stakes packed with your tent work well in most conditions, but certain situations call for special stakes.

🌵 **Sand.** Long, broad stakes with plenty of surface area are ideal for use in loose, sandy soil.

🌵 **Hard, Rocky, or Frozen Soil.** Steel Stakes work well in these conditions. In extremely hard ground, use a 1/2" steel rod to make a starter hole. Store steel stakes separately. If you store steel stakes with your tent, the sharp edges may cut the fabric. Steel stakes can also leave rust stains which might damage your tent.

🌨 **Snow.** Use "dead man" anchors: bury objects (branches, aluminum pie plates, tent bags or stuff sacks filled with snow) that have a great deal of surface area. Tents can also be tied to snow shoes, skis, or ski poles which are stuck in the snow.

- **"Guy Out" your tent.** Use extra ropes to secure your tent. Most Eureka! tents have rings or loops on the fly for extra ropes. Stake down the extra ropes 3-4 feet from the tent. In severe weather, tie extra ropes directly to the tent frame at a crossing or junction point. For umbrella designs, tie a rope to the frame just above the hook at the eave bend. If your tent has an awning, remove the bottom section from each corner pole when it rains. This protects the door and improves water runoff.

Using Your Tent

- Remove boots or shoes before entering a tent
- **DO NOT USE KNIVES OR SHARP ITEMS IN OR AROUND TENT**
- **DO NOT BRING EXTERNAL FRAME BACKPACKS INTO TENTS**
- No lanterns in tents -- EVER!
- **No food or drinks (except plain water) in tents -- EVER!** Cooking and food odors attract wild animals. A hungry animal searching for food will chew or claw through the fabric, damaging the tent beyond repair.
- Don't drag things on the tent floor.
- Don't hang or drape things across a tent.
- Keep tent door zippers completely closed when not entering/exiting to keep out ants, mosquitoes, etc.

- **Condensation.** Through perspiration and breathing, an adult gives off about a pint of water overnight. When you stay in a tent, this water vapor is trapped. If it cannot escape, water vapor reappears as condensation. Your tent's permeable roof reduces condensation, but can't eliminate it. Condensation is most obvious the morning after a cool night. You usually find condensation on coated fabric inside the tent. It can also form under sleeping bags, pads, and objects that press the floor against the cool earth. To reduce condensation, leave your windows partly open at night. Cross ventilation lets excess moisture escape, reducing condensation. The windows on most Eureka! tents are shielded from rain by hoods in the rain fly. This allows cross ventilation in bad weather. Ventilation becomes more important in very humid or extremely cold conditions when your tent's permeable roof is less effective.
- **Zippers.** Never force a jammed zipper. Instead, carefully remove any trapped material. If a zipper separates, gently pull the slider until the zipper is all the way open. Try to close the zipper again. The zipper may have repaired itself. Sand or grit can erode a zipper until it fails to close. If you use your tent in sandy soil, clean zippers frequently by flushing them with fresh water.
- **Housekeeping.** Sweep out your tent daily to protect the floor. Since stones stuck in shoe treads can damage the floor, try not to wear boots or sneakers inside your tent.
- **Avoid contaminants.** Some substances can damage your tent, including insect repellents, fruit juices, acid from leaky flashlight batteries, stove fuel, and hair spray. Keep all of these items away from your tent.

WARNING: Do NOT operate any device which has a flame inside a tent. Combustion consumes oxygen, and can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide which could lead to serious injury or death. Although most tents have a flame retardant coating, they may still catch fire if exposed to flame.

Caring for the Tent When You Get Home

- Unpack the tent, fly, ground cloth, tent frame and stakes within 24 hours of use.
- Dry out all parts, preferably outdoors on a clothes line.
- Inspect all parts and clean dirt from the tent, fly, ground cloth, poles and stakes. Do not use any soaps or detergents - use warm water & sponge only. NEVER MACHINE WASH OR MACHINE DRY ANY PART OF A TENT.
- Allow all parts to dry **completely**
- Repack tent into tent bag
- Report any damage or missing parts to the Quartermaster.

Storage. Three words sum up proper storage: KEEP IT DRY. This prevents several problems. If you store a tent while it's wet, mildew will form. In addition to the odor, mildew damages the tent's waterproof coating, causing leaks. Leaving a tent wet inside its bag may ruin the coating. Over time a process called hydrolysis may soften coating, making it sticky. Sticky coating can peel off, letting water in.