

Setting up your bell tent

| Preparation

The natural waterproofing of cotton canvas means it expands slightly the first time it's exposed to water. This means your tent may leak slightly the first time it's exposed to the elements. To avoid this happening when you're at your campsite, we recommend that you hose your tent down at home with water and let it dry out before taking it on its first camping trip.

Setting up the tent at home once also ensures you'll spend less time pitching the tent when you get to the campsite and you won't run into any unexpected surprises.

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for a full video tutorial

01

Lay out the tent

First, pull all the components out of the storage bag and lay everything out on the ground. Spread your tent out and position it so the door is facing the direction you prefer. Keep other tent components nearby so you can access them easily.

Also, make sure to hold on to the ties around the folded tent, you'll need them when packing away your tent after your trip.



02

Stake the tent down

Using the pins (the smaller of the two sets of stakes provided), stake down the edges of the bell tent using the mallet provided, driving them into the elastic cords attached to the cotton loops around the rim of the tent.


 **Tips**

When staking the pins, either (1) move in a star-pattern, or (2) go around the tent in a clockwise direction, rather than inserting the pins haphazardly.

Angle the pins and stakes inwards, at a 45-degree angle towards the center of the tent.

03

Assemble and position the center pole

Piece the center pole together (the larger of the two poles with a d-ring on one end), unzip the tent door and enter the tent with the pole.

With the d-ring side of the pole facing up, position it in the middle of the circular centerpiece on the roof of the tent, on the inside.

Push the roof up, then station the bottom of the center pole in the center of the ground sheet, marked with a dotted circle.



04

Assemble and position the door pole

Assemble the door pole by snapping the separate parts into place, then after removing the rain cap, place the spike at the top through the metal grommet at the top of the tent door.

Position the bottom of the door pole on the ground sheet, about a foot inside from the edge of the tent.

Now you can place the rain cap back on the spike.



05

Stake down the guy ropes and insert remaining stakes

Zip up the tent door, then stake the guy ropes to the ground using the larger stakes (Jpegs), ensuring the ropes are not taut (you will tighten them later).

Start with the center door, then the two ropes on either side of the door, then proceed in a single direction, either clockwise or anti-clockwise.

Once all the guy ropes are in position and the shape of the tent starts to come together, you can hammer the pegs all the way into the ground. Now, you can start to tighten the guy ropes to straighten the tent walls by pulling the metal runner towards you.

06

Roll the canvas walls up for 360-degree views

This step is optional but it's probably the reason you picked this tent. To enjoy 360-degree views from inside and level up the breeze flowing through the tent, just unzip the canvas walls (the zippers should be towards the back of the tent) and then roll them up panel-by-panel, securing them in place with the toggle loops.



💡 Tips

When staking, ensure that the rope is in line with the seam of the tent that runs from the roof of the tent down to the point where the rope is attached to the tent wall. This helps maintain a consistent distance between the ropes and helps prevent the tent being pulled in different directions.

Angle the stakes inwards, at a 45-degree angle towards the center of the tent.



💡 Tips

Tightening the guy ropes is like tuning a guitar; all the ropes work together to make the perfect shape. For example, if they're too tight on one side and the tent starts to lean in a certain direction, you'll have to loosen them slightly and go around to the other side and tighten them. It's a process of fine-tuning that may require you to step back a couple of times and get a full view of the tent to understand what needs to be done.





Taking down, packing and storing your bell tent

Before packing away your tent, the most important thing is that the tent body and all included components are dry. Packing a wet tent will contribute to mold and mildew growth on the material, reducing the lifespan of the tent.

Of course, sometimes rainstorms hit, and drying your tent completely simply isn't possible. If this is the case, be sure to unpack it and hang it out to dry as soon as possible.

 YouTube

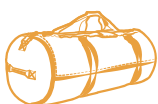


Scan here
for a video tutorial on
packing and folding your tent.



Clean the tent

After the tent is dry and you've removed all your gear, thoroughly sweep out the inside of the tent. Clear out all trash, leaves, sticks, and as much dirt or debris as possible. Any dirt left in the tent will be pressed into the canvas when the tent is rolled up, which is no good! Also, make sure all windows and doors are zipped up before you begin breaking the tent down.



Pack the tent

Now remove all the stakes (Jpegs and pins), as well as the center pole and entrance pole, to collapse the tent body. Once all poles and pegs are stowed, throw the ropes onto the flat tent towards the center so they get wrapped up inside when folding the tent.

Fold the tent lengthwise down the middle (fold it in half) to make a semi-circle shape, with the groundsheet on the outside. Now, fold one end of the tent over to the other side, to make it a quarter-circle.

Then fold the outside part of this quarter-circle back towards the center, so the width of the tent is now approximately the same (or less) than that of the storage bag. Secure the tent in this shape with the ties.

Next, open the storage bag fully and place it upside down over the tent. Then roll the entire thing over so the bag is now facing up with the tent inside. Now you should easily be able to zip the bag up.



Store the tent

Storing your tent only once it is dry is the most important part of storage. As mentioned above, be sure to let your tent air out and get **completely dry** before you pack it away for an extended period.

Also, store your tent in a cool, dry place with good ventilation, which will stop mold or mildew from building up on the canvas, and ideally keep it out of direct sunlight. With proper care and storage, your canvas bell tent will last for countless seasons to come.

This might seem like a long process, but once you've practiced a couple of times, it'll become like second nature. Soon you'll be able to whip out your bell tent and have it set up in just a few minutes. So, now that you know how to prepare, set up, take down, and store your bell tent, it's time to head out into the great outdoors and #reconnectnow!

Sometimes after you receive a tent,
our customers ask questions like...

Where do I find the perfect campsite?

If you're interested in learning more about your tent or how to make the most of your time outdoors, we have tons of resources on our blog.

Check out the blog



You can also chat with
us on the website 24/7.



Caring for your tent

Never store your tent when it's wet or damp

Make sure to never store your tent when it's wet or damp, and this includes the ropes. The moisture trapped inside can lead to the formation of mold or mildew, which will reduce the lifespan of your tent. If you cannot dry your tent fully before packing up your campsite, make sure to lay it out or set it up completely as soon as possible to allow it to dry.

Keep your tent clean

To remove marks, use a soft brush or sponge with fresh water only and rinse with clean water. Then, allow your tent to dry completely. Remove stains as soon as they appear, regularly clean your tent and zippers of any dirt or debris, and brush snow off your tent as often as possible. Do not apply any external treatments or chemicals without consulting us first.

Set your tent up properly

A simple yet effective way to extend the life of your tent is to set it up correctly, following all the instructions. Not pitching your tent correctly can place undue stress on the canvas, seams or zippers. This can weaken the construction of your tent and may affect the performance of the tent in strong winds or heavy rains.

Don't leave your tent up permanently or unattended

Your tent is constructed from best-in-class materials and is built to last for years with the proper care and maintenance. However, your tent is not meant to be used as a permanent shelter, left up year-round or left unattended. All of these situations will be considered "negligent use" and will not be covered under the White Duck Warranty.

Complete your campsite with these essential add-ons



Awning

Scan to get
yours at

10% off



Sun
protection



Rain, snow
and weather
resistance



Complete
Regatta
package



Ground Tarp

Scan to get yours at **10% off**



Protection from dirt, dew and stains



Extend the lifespan of your tent



Lightweight and easy to carry

Gear Range



Upgrade your gear



Bags



Hoplite Top Load



Hoplite G.I. Top Load



Filius Duffel



Hoplite Parachute



Hoplite Duffel



Messenger Bag

Log Carriers



Rectangle



Tote



Boat



Diamond

Dog Bed

