



Have you ever owned a canvas tent before? We'll tell you how to get the most out of your Lotus Belle tent TM.

At 350gsm thickness Lotus Belle tents are thicker than most on the market. They are also treated to be mould and rot resistant. However this is not guarantee you won't have mould build up at sometime during the lifetime of your tent. The first thing to realize is, that this is not the end of the world. You can treat it. But you need to take the right precautions to get the most out of your tent and prevent mould.

We have had customers have their tents up over a year with absolutely no reports of mould. On the flipside we have had customers report mould after 3 months. In every case (and with the honesty from our customers) we can always identify why.

1) BREATHE!

Our canvas is a cotton and polyester mix. As its largely natural material its SUPER IMPORTANT you let your tent breathe. You know that smell your house gets, when its been locked up for weeks on end? Musty. The house needs a good old air out. Tents are no different, in fact they need more air as it's a much more confined space. Particularly in our Outback and Deluxe models, where the groundsheet is Velcro to seal it in. If all the doors and windows are also shut and the tent is left sealed off, it will 'sweat' with condensation building up over night. This moisture has to go somewhere. Most of the time it will evaporate, but it has to go somewhere. You're much more likely to get mould if you don't air you tent out daily.

If you must leave it up when you go away, then stretch the window flaps out and prop them up on sticks or with bamboo so that the exterior blinds work as a flap. This will let the airflow a bit more.

*Remember different climates will have a different affect to the weathering of you tent. So watch and observe how it's reacting to the natural climate. A good mould preventative is 2 parts clove oil to 8 parts pure mineral water sprayed onto the canvas

And perhaps the most important rule of all, our number 1 rule:

NEVER PACK YOUR TENT AWAY WET!!!



A novel way to get more airflow into your tent: use bamboo poles and a carabineer to clip the roof guy eyelets to a pole. There is mesh between the roof and the walls to prevent things getting in and will keep it breezy.

2) DON'T SPRAY!

We live in a world where everything is aerosol, from fake tan to sunscreen to cooking oils and deodorants. Aerosols damage the canvas's natural protections, so please take it outside! Different chemicals in sunscreens are also very harmful to the natural fibres. It's not good for you to breathe these chemicals anyway so do your tent (and your lungs a favour) take it outside.

3) SAP OFF!

Beware of the trees around you, its nice to put your tent up under a tree, but do some research. A lot of saps are very harmful to the canvas. Some are impossible to get off. Trim your trees or research the trees and if they produce pollens or sap which could be harmful to the canvas then avoid, avoid, avoid.

4) CLEANLINESS IS KEY!

The cleaner your tent the less likely it is to get any issues. If people are doing yoga, sweating lots or bodywork like massage is being conducted in the tent on a regular basis wipe down the roof and walls with a nice natural solution like neem and water, to keep it clean and to avoid bacteria spreading. Smoking is also not allowed.

Remember that people inhabited spaces like the Lotus Belle tent for thousands of years. Certain things were not part of the protocol: shoes off, toileting outside. Hygiene was important to these primitive cultures otherwise they'd never have survived. It should be to you too. The tent is a "sacred space".

5) HOSE ME DOWN!

Hose down debris, your tent loves getting wet. If it's a nice day outside give it a good old bath and let it dry in the sunshine. Sunshine and fresh air is the best defence against mould. Lotus loves sunshine!

HOW TO TREAT MOULD

We are not endorsing any particular product right now, as there are many on the market. The first remedy we suggest to people is clove oil and water (as above) as it's a great mould deterrent. Clove oil is an amazing natural product which mould hates.

For tougher mould, make a solution of warm water, a couple capfuls of bleach and some natural organic detergent or baby shampoo (mild with no harmful additives). Put all in a big bucket and with a soft nylon brush or broom gently scrub the tent canvas. Rinse thoroughly leaving no remnants of detergent. How's that worked? Still there? Your tent is at least clean. Use the clove oil treatment mentioned above spray on, leave overnight. Repeat the process of bleach, detergent and water. It should be looking great now. *Before you do this check the forecast for sunny weather. You must now re-impregnate your tent with a waterproofing agent. Ask your local canvas or camping specialists to recommend a good one. **REMEMBER ALWAYS TEST PRODUCTS FIRST** without going nuts, test it to be sure.

UV PENETRATION

Your tent will fade, the coloured tents by 3 shades, maybe more if you are in Australia or NZ, which has the harshest UV in the world. There are no guarantees. There are solar proofers on the market, but do your research and test the product first.

LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!

People ask us how long the tent will last. Our tents go all over the world and each climate is completely different, so it's hard to know. But if you look after your tent we hope it will last for many years to come, 5-10 years or many more! We know people who still camp in their grandfather's tents from World War II so its possible it will last a few generations if well looked after!