



# CARE GUIDE

## 1. Your tent needs sun!

Humidity is the most critical comfort factor for plants, humans and all kinds of fibre material. But unlike plastic tents, canvas allows small moisture particles from breathing, sweating, and cooking to escape directly through the canvas walls, keeping you dry and comfortable under any circumstances. But while this fabric does so much for you, it needs to get the chance to breathe and to stay dry too. If your tent is located in the shade, like under a tree or in the shadow of a huge forest, it could dampen up and won't get the chance to be relieved of its moisture. And in the worst-case scenario, your biggest enemy will show up: mould.

And there is nothing that can safeguard you from environmental issues like these – besides your own actions. Lotus Belle tents are like an old-timer in your garage, which simply needs a little love and attention from time to time. Let's say your tent stood for a while, but you decided that to use it even after the Glamping season (in Europe: April to September), you must heat your tent properly inside, so it gets used to the new conditions outside.

Just like a plant, right? Even if you are blessed with 20 degrees in autumn, the humidity levels are much higher during the night and cold air cannot hold as much moisture as warm air. Cooler air has a lower saturation point and when the air can no longer hold any more moisture it gathers and becomes visible as dew or fog.

If you don't watch out for this natural enemy, the moisture can create an ugly mould that could spread all over your tent. Should you notice mould starting to appear, we recommend a self-made spray of white vinegar and water that you can apply onto the tent as soon as you notice these little dark spots. This homemade remedy usually manages to stop the growth of mould, but that won't get you rid of any stains. (We talk about that later!)

### **DIY: Anti Mould Spray for Light Mould & Stains**

The first remedy we suggest against mould is a mixture of vinegar and water, as it's a great deterrent. Plus, it is an amazing natural product, which mould hates.

#### **Ingredients:**

- White vinegar, Water, Spray bottle

#### **Instructions:**

1. Stir 1 part vinegar to 5 parts water.
2. Mix carefully, and put it in a spray bottle.
3. Use your DIY cleaning agents on resisting dark spots.



## 2. Let it breathe!

Now, remember that musty smell a cottage gets when has it been closed up for weeks on end? It needs a good air out, and tents are no different; in fact, they need more airing as the space is much more confined. Our canvas is a cotton and polyester mix, so largely of natural material, why you must let it dry out.

Especially when doors and windows have been shut too, and the tent is left closed up. Although most of the moisture will evaporate, it has to go somewhere. But always keep in mind that your tent will immediately start to sweat, with condensation building up overnight. Summary: You will be much more likely to get mould if you don't air your tent out daily.

**TIP: If you must leave your Lotus Belle pitched 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 allow better airflow to naturally move through the tent even while you are away.**

## 3. Take your climate into account!

Different climates will affect your tent differently. It is important to keep an eye on how it reacts to the surrounding climate. Another simple mould preventative is a mixture of 2 parts clove oil to 8 parts pure mineral water sprayed onto the canvas. Besides different temperature and climate conditions, there are some other even more dangerous elements that can damage your Lotus Belle.

### PLANTS

There is nothing wrong with pitching your tent under a tree, as long as it gets additional protection through roof cover or something else. And please keep in mind that tree sap and pollen can be very harmful to the canvas, and some are even impossible to remove. Take a look at the tree, shrubbery or any other plants nearby first to find out if the tree produces sap or pollen – if so, it is best to avoid this area.

### ANIMALS

But when it comes to being with nature, there are many things you cannot control. Many of our customers and partners choose the most beautiful corners of Europe for their Lotus Belle set-up, and you can be certain that you are not going to alone in these quiet or remote areas. Every now and then, some birds will pass by or even nest, snails will explore the unique round shape of the tent, and other creatures could even see it as something edible!

To protect your tents from any contamination by these uncontrollable fellows, and also thunderstorms, falling branches, frost or heavy rain, we always recommend a Pro Roof Cover. You can choose between this thicker cover or go for a standard cover in six different colours and patterns.



## UV RAYS

Your tent's skin is not as precious as yours, but keep in mind its colour will fade due to constant UV penetration. Coloured tents like our Lotus Belle Sahara Sand may fade up to 3 shades, or even more if you are in Australia or New Zealand (countries with the harshest UV in the world).

But also, Lotus Belle owners in Southern Europe should keep it on their radar as there are never guarantees against UV damage. To delay fading we recommend you use a roof cover, and wash the tent and roof cover from time to time with 'solar proof' solutions designed to minimise UV damage.

### DIY: Easy Dry Cleaning of Lotus Belle tents

Wait until your tent has dried out and use a hard brush to remove any dirt or debris. Don't push down or rub the fabric too hard, to ensure you don't damage your tent's canvas. TIP: Use a printed or pro roof cover for extra UV and rain protection.

## HUMANS

We live in a world where everything is aerosol – from sunscreen and mosquito spray to cooking oils and deodorants. These aerosols can damage the canvas's natural protections, so please take them outside! Different chemicals in sunscreens are also very harmful to the natural fibres of the fabric.

It's not good for you to breathe these chemicals anyway, so do your tent (and yourself) a favour and do the spraying outside. As a glamping site owner, be sure to point this out to your guests, as well as the following rule number 4.

### DIY: Cleaning Instructions for Tough Mould & Stains

For tougher mould, we suggest making a solution of warm water, a couple of capfuls of bleach and some natural organic detergent or baby shampoo (mild with no harmful additives). And please check the forecast as you need sunny weather, so your tent can completely dry after the cleaning and waterproofing process.

- Mix these in a big bucket and gently scrub the tent canvas with a soft nylon brush or broom. Be sure to rinse thoroughly with water so that there are no remnants of detergent left. How has that worked? Is the mould still there? At least you'll know your tent is clean!
- Use the clove oil or vinegar treatment mentioned above, spray on and leave it overnight. Repeat the process of bleach, detergent and water. It should be looking great after this tender treatment.
- Now, it needs to be re-impregnated with a waterproofing agent of your choice. Please test the product first on a small area to be sure it does not irritate the canvas.



## 4. Pay attention to hygiene

The cleaner your tent is, the less likely you will have problems. People inhabited spaces like the Lotus Belle tent for thousands of years. Camp rules, including shoes off and toileting outside, were in place back then as today because hygiene was important to the survival of cultures. It should be to you too. Keep your Lotus Belle a sacred space inside and be mindful.

**TIP: If you offer services like yoga classes, fitness seminars or perhaps massages and use your tent for that purpose, then it is best to wipe down the roof and walls with a good natural cleaning solution and water, to keep it clean and avoid bacteria from spreading.**

## 5. Cleanliness is key!

There are many available cleaning products on the market that remove mould and stains like the ones you can find in our shop. But before gripping onto commercial products, you should consider a DIY homemade solution. (see recipe above)

## When does your tent need a professional clean and re-waterproof?

Our golden rule of thumb: If you set up your tent for the whole summer season then we recommend a professional clean every two years – if you want to enjoy your tent for the next ten. When you stick to your commitment and look after your tent, your friends and family will admire it in unblemished condition for years to come.

If you are searching for a shortcut, we recommend cleaning agents by NIKWAX, which you can get in our shop. We offer a Tent and Gear Solarwash, and a Cotton Proof Waterproofing agent. On the packaging you will find a detailed instructions on how to apply it correctly.

**TIP: If your tent is often used by guests, hit by nature, or you just haven't had the time to take care of it like you should, look out for a tent or marine (sail) cleaning company in your region who clean cotton tents, or just drop us a message, so we can provide a trusted contact with good prices.**

For more tips, follow us on Instagram or Facebook, or send us a message with your questions to [info@lotusbelle.de](mailto:info@lotusbelle.de)