

TRIPODS

Leofoto Tripod Care

The Basics

A tripod is a mechanical piece of equipment with intricate interlocking parts. Any corrosive outdoor elements like sand, dirt and water will shorten its lifespan. Treat it with respect and keep it clean and you can easily get more than a decade of good service out of it.

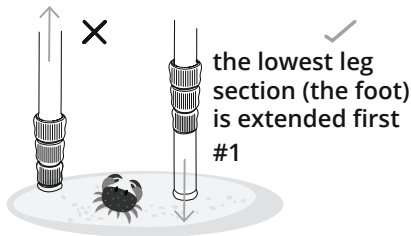
Drag your tripod through the sand and mud every 2nd day and you can expect to replace it after two years.

Seven Rules

one

Lowest leg first

Always open the lowest leg section first - this keeps the joint off the ground and ensures it stays clean and free of dust and sand. This is incredibly important when shooting in sandy environments like a desert or beach.

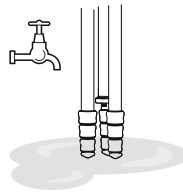


two

Rinse after ocean use

When salt water evaporates it leaves behind a layer of salt - over time, this is destructive to any mechanical piece of equipment. After a shoot at the beach, always rinse any part of the tripod that was in contact with sea-water using fresh water. Leave to dry in extended position after rinsing.

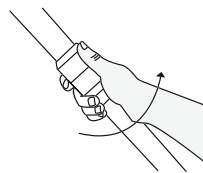
NB - Try to keep the apex of the tripod and your head dry. Wipe down the top of the tripod with a wet cloth instead of rinsing it.



three

Loosening/tightening joints

Never action more than one rotation when loosening the joints, or the joint will pop open and release the leg.



four

Transport in carry/dust bag

When travelling (especially on dirt roads in Africa), make sure that your tripod is in its carry/dust bag. This will keep moving parts clean and will protect it from scratches.

five

Never lie down flat on sand/dirt

This is the cardinal sin with tripods - putting it down flat on the ground is guaranteed to get dust and dirt in the hinges of the legs as well as most of the joints. If you do this frequently, then don't expect your tripod to last too long.

six

Clean and lubricate once a year

It is advisable to disassemble and clean the joints of your tripod once a year. It is a fairly simple process, it just takes a fair bit of time to do a good job. There are plenty of videos on Youtube that show how to disassemble and re-assemble screw-joints tripods. We offer a full service for R1000 + courier fees.

seven

Maintain tension on leg-hinges

The manufacturers do not provide the necessary tools to loosen/tighten certain components for fun. The legs of any tripod will become floppy over time and it is your job to maintain the stiffness thereof. If you feel them becoming floppy or too stiff, get the tools out and fine-tune it to your preference. Make sure you use both of the torx/allen keys and apply strong pressure onto the joint from both sides. Alternatively, send us your tripod for a service.

Maintenance Tips

Purchase a tube of clear grease or vaseline and use a tiny bit to lubricate the thread of the joints.

To remove the build-up of salt on joint components, let it soak in coke or vinegar overnight.

We offer a full tripod service at R1 000, including courier both ways. We recommend servicing your tripod yearly.

Book your service by mailing us on info@landscapegear.co.za