

BELL TENT

INSTRUCTION MANUAL



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IMPORTANT

1. Avoid camping near places where prone to floods, rockslides, thunder, snow-slides or other disasters.
2. Do not pitch the tent near an open fire.
3. Make sure that the floor and fly straps are secured by ropes and staked down to avoid injury.
4. To clean: Spray and wash with water, always leave to dry in the sun before packing away.

Remove stains with a soft bristle brush or a sponge with our canvas cleaner. Leave it in the sun to dry and apply our reproofing water repellent spray if necessary.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT YOUR TENT:

PLEASE DO CHECK THESE IMPORTANT POINTS BELOW.

WWW.STONEGATEINDUSTRIES.COM.AU accept no liability to any party for loss or damage incurred from the misuse of our products.

1. Cotton Canvas Bell Tents are flammable therefore should not be in direct contact which heat from appliances or heating accessories due to serious injury or death. (The same applies to fire retardant tents). Fire Retardant tents are treated with chemicals to delay the effect or ease of spreading of flames



2. Stonegate Outdoors do not prohibit the use of heating equipment to be used inside our Bell Tents. We hold no liability for accidental damage, accidents that may occur from the use of such equipment inside our Bell Tents. Owners who choose to operate stoves, wood burners, heaters of any type do so at their own risk!

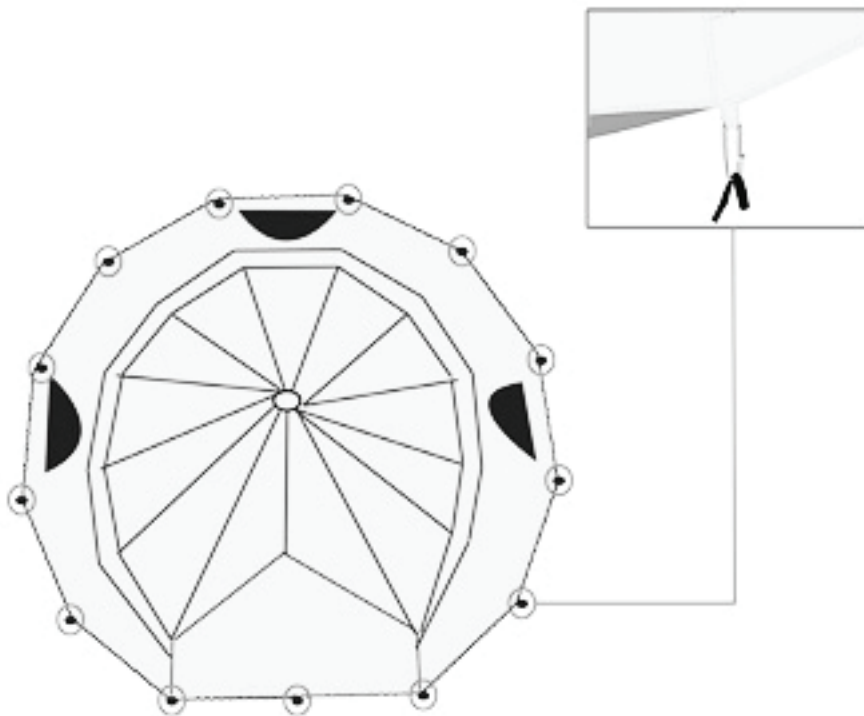
3. For those wanting to operate a stove/wood burner in the correctly treated environment should never do so without having a working and tested fire alarm; Carbon monoxide alarm and fire extinguisher on site at all times. Always keep a sharp blade, knife, pocket pen in case of emergency exiting of the tent, persons inside can use the knife to cut the fabric as an alternative escape route.





SETTING UP

1. Never put too much pressure on the zip parts (groundsheet) as this may cause damage to the zips.
2. Ensure that all zips are covered by the overhanging flaps as water will leak through the zips and cause floods inside your tent. If the overhanging flaps do not cover the zips, this is usually due to the tent being set up incorrectly.





PACKING AWAY

1. Always ensure that your tent is **dry** before packing away.
2. Always clear away or prevent stains from food, drinks where possible, as fungus and mould may occur. Always clean immediately if liquid is spilt.

CARING FOR YOUR TENT

Always ensure that your tent is thoroughly dried out before packing away as mould and fungus will grow in the fabric.

Tip: If in doubt simply roll your tent out on the floor of a warm room overnight to dry out completely.

WATERPROOFING

Apply a waterproofing agent like Nikwax after 1 year of constant use. This will prolong the life of the canvas whilst improving the waterproof features.

PREVENTION OF LEAKAGE

In very extreme weather conditions, Bell Tents can occasionally leak slightly around the zippers positioned at the doors, windows, or groundsheet depending on which way the wind is blowing. You can prevent this by simply brushing/spraying on extra waterproofing agent to the fabric located either side of the zippers.



WEATHERING CANVAS BELL TENTS

We advise for all tents to be tested/ weathered before planning a camping trip. If your tent does leak, don't be worried as this is normal if the canvas has not yet been weathered.

Cotton tents need to go through a weathering process to become watertight, it is the same for all bell tents and all canvas tents.

When the canvas gets wet, the weave will tighten, making the material watertight and able to resist water more effectively.

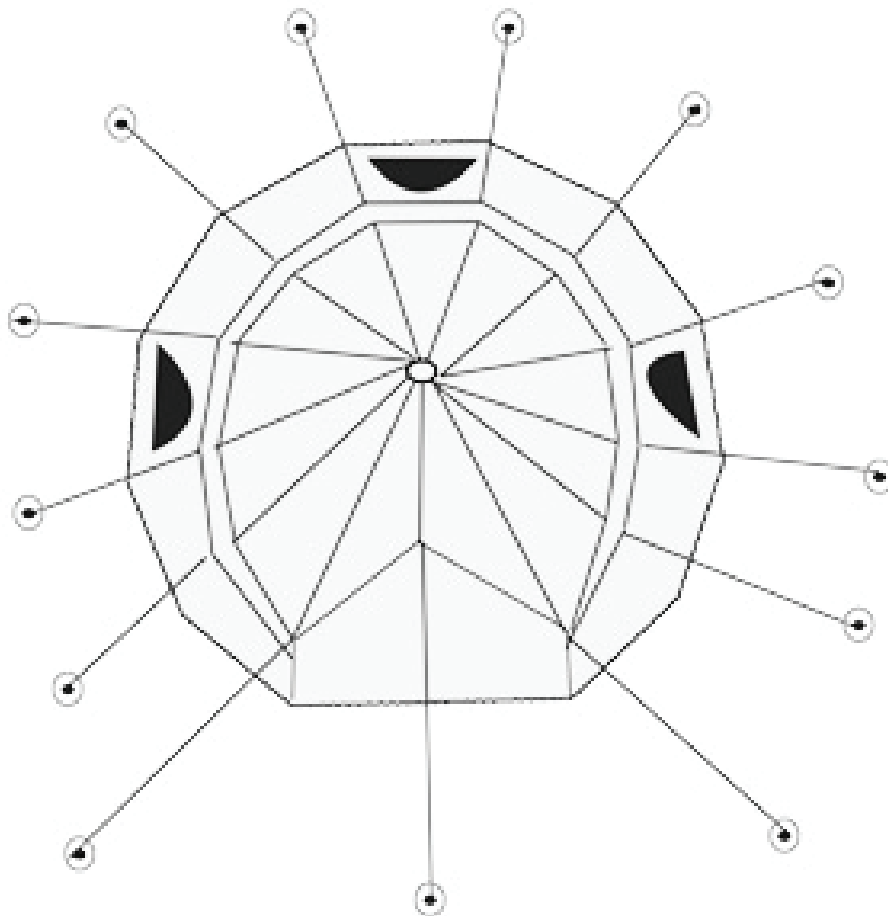
In addition to this, the seams of the tent also need to weather. When the tent is being assembled, the needle makes many holes in the canvas for the thread to hold the fabric together securely. These needle holes will also tighten and become water resistant over time. The canvas itself will be the first to weather, usually in the first couple of heavy soakings with the seams usually taking longer. Not only does the tent need to get heavily soaked for the weathering process to be effective, it also needs to dry thoroughly (bone dry) between soakings. Some bell tents will need a couple of weathering procedures before every water inlet has gone. You should weather your bell tent before your camping trip.



METHODS OF WEATHERING YOUR BELL TENT :

By far the best method for weathering is simply leaving your tent out in mother nature for a few days.. This is the method preferred by nearly all sellers and manufacturers.

You can also weather your tent by giving it a light soak with a hose, (Do not use a jet washer).





INSTRUCTIONS TO SET UP A BELL TENT:

The order in which you set up your Bell Tent is really important. Never assume that you may remember the order each time you pitch your tent, and hence carry this manual with you at all times.

BEFORE YOU START

Open the carton, then unpack the carrier bag and the tent, then lay out the groundsheet.

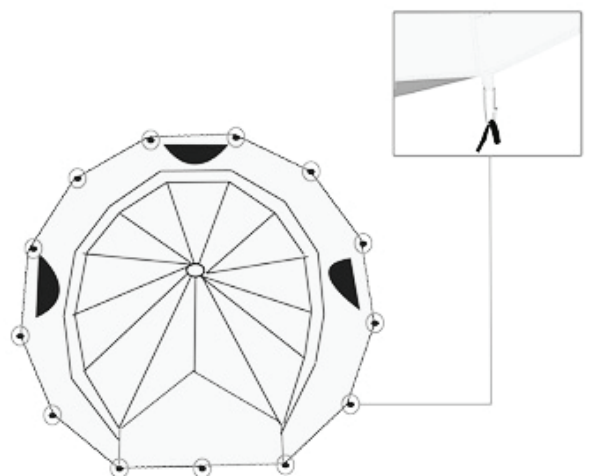
Lay out the groundsheet as flat as possible, with the cotton fly on top.

Find the door and rotate the groundsheet, so that it faces the direction you want. Make sure you have the entrance facing the right direction.

1. Zip the groundsheet and the tent fly together all the way around if they come separately.

(Apart from the doorway zipper, ignore this step if your tent is not zipped groundsheet design)

2. Think of your tent as a huge clock. Each number on a clock represents a pegging point. With that in mind this is what you should do.





Peg the groundsheet. Start with one peg positioned at 12 o'clock, then go across to the opposite side 6 o'clock and place another peg. Be sure to pull tight. Now move to position 9 o'clock and again go across to the opposite side at 3 o'clock. Now you can place pegs in all the points in between.

3. Take the main central pole through the door ensuring that the rubber stoppers are inserted into the top and bottom parts of the pole. Find the middle point of the cone and insert the pole so that the tent stands vertically.
4. Make the central pole stand as vertical as possible, in the centre of the groundsheet.
5. Place the A Frame pole inside the door, and attach it with the canvas, install the rainproof cap. Be-careful not to rip the canvas with the A-frame spike.
6. Zip the door, attach the top door strap with the long guy line and peg it down. Then, attach the rest of the guy lines around the tent following the previous clock strategy that we used when inserting the pegs. Do not put too much tension on the guy ropes at this point. Be sure to follow the seam lines direction when placing the guy lines to give a neat and even finish. The aim is to set up your tent to look smooth overall like a nicely ironed shirt. Creases will appear in the canvas when the guy lines have not been positioned correctly. This is an important step as water will gather in creases which can cause leaks in heavy rain.
7. Once all the tent guy lines are in place, adjust the guy lines one by one to get the required tension. Remembering our o'clock strategy, go around tightening the guy lines. The aim is to keep your centre pole as straight as possible. Too much tension on one side will make your Bell Tent look lopsided



8. For tents that have a zipped-in groundsheet. You can roll up the sides of your bell tent on a hot day. Simply do this by unzipping the groundsheet zippers all the way around. You will see cotton wicks positioned on the inner side of your bell tent. Simply roll your tents sides up and secure using the wicks.

STORING YOUR BELL TENT:

Post glamping, it is important to dismantle your tent carefully and store it properly to prevent damage.

1. Make sure your tent is thoroughly dry so as to avoid growth of mould and fungus on the fabric.
2. Apply a waterproofing agent after 1 season of constant usage to increase and maintain the durability of the canvas and its waterproof features.
3. Avoid storing the tent in a damp or hot location like a basement, an attic or a car boot. If a damp place is your only option, then place your dried tent inside a sealed plastic bin or other container.
4. When your tent is brand new the cotton might let in some air that will leak around the seams. However, after the canvas has been wet once this will no longer happen because of the cotton expanding.
5. We suggest spraying the canvas after considerable amount of usage, which can preserve the water resistance of your tent and prolong its life.