

EQUIPMENT CARE



Tents

In the OTC:

Choose a tent depending on the season's possible weather and number of people on the trip. Manufacturers classify their tents according to sleeping capacity: solo tents, two-person tents, three-person tents and so on. They are often classified by seasons: three-season, four-season, and single-wall. You'll also find references to items such as 1-to-2-person tents or 2-to-3-person model:

Available tents:

Eureka Mountain Pass: 4 person 3-season tent

Sierra Designs Reverse Combi: 2 person 3-season tent

*Check the tent for holes or other problems before leaving the OTC or they will become your responsibility. Ensure that all necessary poles and stakes accompany the tent. Any lost or broken poles will be paid for by the renter.



Sierra Designs Reverse Combi

In the Field:

- When selecting your setup spot, look for an established campsite with a smooth, level surface. Clear away debris (pine cones, twigs, small rocks) that could not only poke you in the back, but poke a hole in the floor of your tent.
- Use a ground cloth to protect the bottom of your tent floor from abrasion. Added bonus: In the morning, it gives you a clean up spot where you can fold and roll your tent.
- When you climb inside your tent, leave your boots or camp footwear (and all the debris clinging to them) outside or in the vestibule.
- The sun's ultraviolet rays (UVA and UVB) can cause nylon to deteriorate quickly. If your campsite offers little or no shade during the day, cover your tent with its rainfly. The rainfly's urethane coating helps it hold up better under the sun's glare.
- If your tent is a freestanding model, pick it up and shake out debris each morning before you pack it away. Pick up any trash that falls out and pack it out.

In the Field (continued):

- If you forget or lose your stakes, use smooth rocks to anchor the tent's corners, either on the outside or inside. If it's windy, your only option may be to put them inside the tent.
- When disassembling a tent, don't fold the tent or rainfly fabric on the same crease lines time after time. Over the years those creases could become permanent and might grow brittle as the tent ages. Always stuff a tent back into its bag

After the Trip:

- Make sure your tent is dry when you return it. No tent-care rule is more important. If you leave a tent wet, even damp, for a prolonged period of time, you are inviting mildew to overtake it. After a trip, unpack your tent and inspect it for dampness. If you detect even a trace, set it up in a shady spot (a garage, for instance) and let it air dry. If you have the space, store it loosely outside of its stuff sack. Avoid storing it in damp basements or hot attics.
 - Note: This keep-it-dry rule applies on the trail, too. If it's raining when you break camp and you must pack you tent wet, look for an opportunity during the day – ideally during a breakthrough of sun – when you can dry it out.
- To clean a tent, use a non-abrasive sponge and gently scrub soiled areas by hand. Use cold water and a non-detergent soap. Rinse thoroughly, then set it up in a shady spot and let it air dry completely.
- Do not machine wash or dry the tent; the heat could cause the nylon to distort or melt.



Eureka Mountain Pass

Removing Mildew:

Mildew can develop any time a tent is stored wet. It looks bad, smells bad and can damage your tent's waterproof coatings. Don't let it start. If it already exists, here's one way to approach it:

- Try some light scrubbing with a sponge during a regular cleaning session.
- If it's still apparent, mix one-half cup of Lysol® in 1 gallon of hot water.
- Dip a sponge in this solution use it to lightly but thoroughly scrub milder afflicted areas.
- Set up the tent and allow it to air dry.
- Then, mix 1 cup of salt and 1 cup of concentrated lemon juice with 1 gallon of hot water.
- Rub the solution into the visible mildew and once again, allow the tent to dry.

This procedure will stop mildew growth and eliminate the odor, but will not remove the stain.

Outdoor Trip Center Hours

Monday through Thursday 6pm - 9pm

Friday 12-3pm

Fall and Spring Semesters only

www.towson.edu/adventure