

Scouting AT HOME Badgework



cubs



Outdoors Challenge

SCOUTS



Outdoors Challenge



Know your tent

You will need...

- A pen or pencil
- A ruler or straight edge
- A print of the drawing on page 3



About tents ...

Tents are the most expensive part of camping equipment and come in all shapes and sizes for a variety of different purposes. The tent most commonly used for Scout camps is the Patrol Tent; which is made of heavy canvas material and is particularly robust and hard-wearing. These can sleep up to six people with their kit and because of its size, normally requires at least three people to put it up.

They are made of one layer of waterproof but breathable canvas and have wooden poles, which are strong but heavy. Guy lines - also known as guys or guy ropes are fixed to the side of the tent and the round wooden 'dolly' on top of the poles, and are secured in the ground with pegs. They pull the tent fabric tight to create its shape and anchor the tent to the ground; and should be kept tight to avoid the tent from sagging. There are also small loops at the bottom edge of the tent, known as pegging points or brailings, to secure the wall of the tent to the ground with small tent pegs.

What to do ...

Practice pitching and striking a tent before taking it on camp, but take care when doing this to avoid snags or tears. Do not walk over the canvas of a tent when pitching or striking it, as this may damage the fabric. It is best to close tent flaps before pegging it out, as this maintains the shape of the tent and makes sure that you'll be able to close tent flaps easily afterwards.

Continued on the next page ..



Fairly
clean



Not too
messy



Quite
messy



Highly
messy

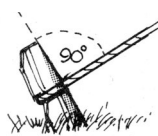
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- Author - Doug Mounford
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What to do (continued) ...



The tent pegs should be at 90° to the guy lines to lessen the risk of them pulling out due to the constant tugging caused by the wind on the tent.

Once erected, adjust the main guy lines that run from the top of the tent poles, as necessary, checking that the poles are upright. Do not move the poles when the guy lines are taut. Remember, a patrol tent can be 'storm set' to provide extra protection against bad weather by crossing the main guys diagonally backwards.

Do not cut corners - always pitch tents properly, and after use fold and pack them away carefully for storage, so as to avoid damage. At camp keep the tent bags in the tent.

When using a tent:

- Make sure tents are positioned well apart from each other to prevent the risk of a fire spreading. Never use naked flames inside a tent.
- Never let objects (or Scouts!) touch the inside of a tent in the rain, as water will seep through the fabric; so keep your kit away from tent edges, as its usually the first thing to get damp when it rains.
- Shoes or boots should be taken off outside tents and stored where they can't be tripped over.
- Prevent condensation from forming inside tents by opening vents in mild weather, and keeping the door storm flaps rolled up unless needed. If possible, give the tent a good airing every day, by tying up the walls and doors (brailing) to let air circulate; and from time to time, if the weather is fine, move the groundsheet outside the tent.
- Tighten the guy lines every so often to prevent the tent from sagging, but not too much. However, slacken the guy lines at night or if rain is expected, as water causes canvas shrink. This may result in pegs being pulled from the ground, broken ropes or a even a torn tent.
- Keep the inside of the tent clean, safe and tidy; and make sure that any litter and mess is tidied away immediately.

Get to know the parts of a tent

- The drawing on the next sheet shows some patrol tents in use at a scout camp.
- Along the edge of the sheet are the names of various parts of the tent and other items. Draw a line from each of these to the appropriate part of the tent or item

Parts of a patrol tent



- Brailing loop
- Dolly
- Door
- Groundsheet
- Guyline runner
- Main guy
- Peg
- Ridge
- Roof
- Seam
- Sectional pole
- Side guy
- Sod cloth
- Ventilator
- Wall

