

# SIBLEY® STANDAARD SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

Hello, and thanks for buying one of our Standard tents. Here is the best way to put up your tent: Our instructions are based on one person setting up the tent but the more people there are, the faster it goes up (with a little practice it should not take more than 6 minutes). A list of tips can be found at the end of this document to help you get years of use out of your tent, but the golden rule is:

**ALWAYS, WITHOUT FAIL,  
STORE YOUR BELL TENT BONE DRY  
OR YOU RUN THE RISK OF  
GETTING A MOULDY TENT!**

ENJOY!

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any more questions, good ideas on better ways of doing something or just to send in pictures for the gallery on the site.

## Putting up a Sibley Standard tent

**1** Unpack the tent and lay out the groundsheet. Find the door and rotate the groundsheet so it's facing the desired direction



**2** Lay out the groundsheet as flat as possible and pin it down with the small pegs to stop it blowing away. On close inspection you will see that the groundsheet is not entirely round – you have found what will be the entrance, place it in the desired direction. You can choose to put the tent up without groundsheet.

### TIP

Even though the groundsheet and tent may come separately we recommend you keep them zipped together and only unzip when you need a breeze. The tent is much faster to put up and down that way. If the total weight is too much to carry across a festival consider separating the tent and groundsheet and doing two trips to the car.

**3** Lift tent onto the ground sheet with the entrance facing the desired direction. Make sure the door is fully zipped up.

**4** Now peg the two rubber loops either side of the door together right next to one of closest peg in the ground sheet. Now repeat this all the way round the tent making sure each peg is right next to the corresponding peg in the ground sheet. This makes sure the tent will be the right shape when it goes up.



**5** The first time you put up your Sibley tent you will need to connect the guy ropes (leave them on after that). Unravel them and you'll see there is a loop of rope through the plastic and a single end. Tie these ends onto the heavy duty canvas loops at bottom of the roof. When you put the large pegs into the ground do it through the loop and try and have the plastic at least 50cm from the tent. This allows you to adjust the tension both ways.



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**6** Get the poles out and extend them. Unzip the door and take the central steel pole with rubber stoppers on. Go in to the tent, find the top and match it with one of the stoppers. Then pull the pole in and up goes the tent. Make it as upright as possible; this is easy as there is very little tension at this point. Now take the A frame and the metal spike on the top of the A frame through the matching hole in the canvas above the door. Now edge the A frame forward into the door space until it's vertical.

**7** Leave the tent and using the large pegs attach the first guy rope above the door (this one can be removed later when there isn't a lot of wind). Then zip up the door and do the guy ropes on either side of the door. Once those three are in place go round to the back of the tent and repeat. Now do the remaining guy ropes and adjust the ropes to get everything tight.

## N.B

- All the guy ropes need to follow the lines of the seams in the roof.
- Adjust the guy rope slider so you have approx 50cm of loop to the peg - this allows adjustment in both directions.
- It is important to make sure the tent stays symmetrical and that the tension is evenly spread.

**8** Finally go inside the tent and tuck the flap/ plastic skirt at the bottom of the canvas walls;



Finally: Enjoy!

## TIP

If the door seems too tight move the two guy ropes either side of the door in towards the middle of the door to relieve some tension.

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## Walls up?

If it's a hot day there is nothing better than rolling the walls up and letting the breeze brush over you. You can roll up the whole tent or just a section.

Simply unzip the section you want to pull up, roll the wall up from the inside and attach using the strings provided.



## How to pack up a Sibley Standard tent & get it back into its bag!

Here are some tips on packing up your tent after use.

As stated all over the set up instructions, it is VITAL that your tent is stored bone dry otherwise it will get attacked by mould. It's fine taking it down damp, however you MUST ensure you hang it up to dry within 24 hours.

You don't have to set the tent up again, just hang it on a washing line, over a car or over some chairs. Basically, it just needs some air.

## This is how to get your tent back in the bag without hassle:

1 Take all the poles and pegs out of the tent (not the groundsheet) and fold the tent over itself so you have a double layer half moon. Keep the tent on the groundsheet and off the ground to keep it clean and dry.

2 Place the tent bag above the top of the tent so you have a template for how wide you want the tent to end up. Now start folding in from the sides but keep the top of the fold away from the top of the tent keeping it the right thickness to fit in the bag.



3 Keep folding in from each side while making sure to keep the top of the tent from becoming a thin point.

4 Once you have folded the tent into a strip that is the same width as the bag fold both ends in so you end up all the guy ropes tidied in and a strip of canvas about a meter long. Next take the canvas off ground sheet. Remember to keep it off grass if the grass is wet).

5 Now un-peg the groundsheet, turn it over and give it a couple of minutes for the condensation to dry off the bottom. You may want to put a couple of pegs back in to stop it being blow away and it's a good idea to not put it on the same spot as before as you'll get condensation on the new underside.

6 Once both sides are dry fold the groundsheet in half and in half again so you end up with a strip the same width as the folded tent. Now fold it over on itself until you end up with a square (Sometimes it's not possible to get the groundsheet bone dry in the field, if that's the case roll up the dry tent into its bag, roughly pack up the wet ground sheet and pop it in something waterproof. Once home dry it out and continue putting the tent away).

Enjoy your Sibley tent, and remember: please only store it bone dry.

Many thanks, and feel free to call us if you get stuck.

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## Other info

Cotton shrinks when wet, making itself waterproof when it rains.

The first time your tent gets wet it may leak a little, don't worry - THIS IS TOTALLY NORMAL!!

Once it dries out for the first time that shrinkage closes up any little holes to ensure it won't happen again.

The canvas has been impregnated to protect it from dirt, ultraviolet radiation and fungus. This makes it mould resistant but not mould proof.

If the canvas remains damp in a place where mould can grow, eventually mould will grow. If you put your tent up in a damp corner of the garden next to a hedge or under a tree long term it will eventually get mouldy (as would a car or anything left there). Therefore, it's worth considering the right spot that has some ventilation as mould is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

Advantages of a cotton canvas tent:

- Strong
- Breathing and humidity regulating

Disadvantages of a cotton canvas tent:

- Dries slowly
- Sensitive for dirt and fungus

## Maintenance

- The cotton must be bone dry before storing the tent.
- Never keep the tent stored away wet for longer than two days otherwise fungus can affect the canvas which will then create permanent little, black dots.
- The canvas has been impregnated with anti-fungi and made waterproof that is effective for up to 4 to 6 months of use. Once you have passed this period of camping you will need to re-proof the fabric in order to keep your tent as new.
- Maintenance starts when setting up your tent. If a tent has not been set up correctly uneven forces will pull on the canvas. This could eventually lead to damage. To ensure your tent stays set up correctly daily guy rope maintenance is necessary.
- It is in your interest to keep the canvas as clean as possible and remove stains as soon as they appear. Dust and dried mud is best removed once the canvas is dry by brushing with a clean hard brush like a floor scrubbing brush.

## Lifespan

The lifespan of your tent is very dependent upon camping conditions such as air pollution, ultraviolet radiation, natural dirt (bird droppings, sand, salt water) and domestic dirt (cooking stains, soda, wine, sun cream), as these all limit the lifespan of your cotton canvas tent.

When cared for your tent should be good for 60+ weeks of use.

## Zippers

Zippers sometimes have to endure extreme tension caused by wind, incorrect tent set ups or pressures caused by people or objects leaning into the tent.

In order to limit damage to any zippers:

- close all zippers before setting up your tent
- handle the zippers with care
- protect them by treating them with silicones once in a while
- verify zippers before setting up your tent, as there is no insurance on them after use

## Fungus and stains

Due to insufficient ventilation, fungus can affect the canvas. It is important to store your tent dry so no fungus or other stains can appear. If you have to temporarily store the tent wet be sure to remove the mud and dirt from the bottom of the tent and put your tent back out to dry within 48 hours.

In order to limit fungus and stains on your tent:

- store your tent 100% dry
- (when dealing with fungus) use a soft brush or sponge and a lot of fresh water. Only use specialized tent cleaning product to remove difficult stains as other chemical products can cause the cotton to leak. We suggest you have your tent re-impregnated with water-proofer is any area has been cleaned using a cleaning product.

## Leaking

Cotton can, when new, let some air through and leak around the seams. After the canvas has been wet once this will no longer happen because of the cotton expanding. Very light stains can appear on a wet tent - these stains cause no problems.

In order to preserve your tent's water resistance and prolong its lifespan after a considerable amount of use, the outside of the canvas can be re-treated with a sealant. There are many good spray can sealants on the market, and we also sell re-proofer.