

## HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TENT

### General Tips:

- Use a ground cloth under your tent whenever possible.
- Make sure the ground cloth has a smaller footprint than the tent to avoid it acting as a water collector.
- Do not wear shoes inside your tent.
- Sweep or clean out the tent floor daily to prevent damage from stones, etc.
- Use a small rug or mat inside the tent door (or vestibule) to wipe off mud and catch dirt and sand.
- Do NOT keep food/snacks inside your tent. Hungry critters will chew through the tent fabric in search of a snack.
- When packing your tent in the tent bag, DO NOT stuff your tent into the bag but ROLL the tent up and put it in the bag.

### Cleaning & Storage:

Proper cleaning and storage of your tent will help prolong its life. Before storing your tent, set it up and inspect it. Look for any damage, missing parts, pulled seams, broken zippers, holes or mildew.

- Clean all dust and dirt marks by wiping it down with a sponge using a mild soap (liquid hand soap – never use detergent) and lukewarm water solution.
- Rinse with a clean wet sponge. Do not soak your tent, never machine-wash it, and never put it into the dryer.
- Allow the tent to air dry thoroughly before dismantling it. Be sure the tent is completely dry, especially the heavier, double stitched areas such as seams.
- Be sure to wipe down your poles with a damp cloth and towel dry. This is especially true after camping near salt water and/or sand. The salt can corrode them, and dirt/sand on poles stored with your tent can contribute to mildew growth.
- Be sure the shock cord in your poles is dry before storing.
- Clean the zippers with a quick dip in water and then dry them off. This is especially important if you have been camping in an area with sand/dirt.
- Store the tent loosely rolled, preferably in a large cotton sack or in a cardboard box, in a cool, dry place. It is recommended that your tent bag be used as a carry sack and not for storage.

### Mildew:

Mildew can develop any time your 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 clean it:

- Should mildew begin to form, set up the tent and clean it as above with a sponge and warm soapy water, then rinse with a clean sponge.
- Next, sponge-wipe the tent with a solution of ½ cup Lysol and 1 gallon of hot water. Leave the solution on the fabric and allow it to 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 it to dry.
- Finally, rinse thoroughly with a clean sponge and allow to dry.

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