



# Canvas Care

## Weathering

Before using your camper, you will need to 'weather' or precondition your Camper canvas, in order for your tent to have its own natural water repellence.

1. Set it up in your backyard and remove the mattress. Be careful **not to over tighten and stretch the canvas or the stitching.**
2. Use a garden hose to completely soak the canvas. The Camper Tent must be wet down thoroughly to allow the fibres to swell and shrink to a tighter weave which closes up the stitching holes and further waterproofs the canvas.
3. This process of weathering will take 3 wetting and drying cycles.
4. Allow the canvas to completely dry between each cycle.
5. Determining factors are the amount of water allowed to soak into the canvas and the speed of the drying process from the sun.
6. Canvas fibres expand very slowly.
7. If you have any further leaks a wax stick can be rubbed on the stitching and zippers to improve the water proofing.
8. When using the camper erect the tent in a manner that doesn't allow water to pool; yet not too tight to stretch the canvas or the stitching.
9. A combination of setting up on level ground, pole adjustment and installing all necessary ropes as this will help to achieve the best result.
10. **NEVER PUT A DAMP TENT INTO STORAGE.**

## Cleaning the Canvas

1. One of the best ways to keep canvas looking good and to delay the need for deep or vigorous cleaning is to hose off on a regular basis (i.e. Monthly if used on long trips), with clean water. This simple method will help prevent dirt from becoming deeply imbedded in the canvas and remove the need for more severe cleaning. In most environments, a thorough cleaning will be needed every two to three years.
2. Do not apply soaps, detergents, cleaning fluids or insecticides. **Never use detergents or bleach** which could ruin the water repellence and strip the colour of the canvas.
3. Persistent mould or mildew growth should be treated with a purpose made mould & mildew remover. Water should be cold to lukewarm.
4. Canvas which has been cleaned extensively may require reproofing with a purpose made reproofing compound available at most camping stores. Use a soft bristle brush to clean.

## Storage Tips

1. Ensure the canvas is thoroughly dry before packing away. Most fabrics are susceptible to mildew. Mildew results when the canvas is folded when wet, or stored in a damp place.
2. Never store your camper covered with a tarp (unless it is tied up like a shelter) because it will impede airflow. Mould and mildew thrive on dirt, moisture and decreased airflow.
3. The best way for prevention of mould and mildew is to open it up at home as soon as possible to air dry.
4. **Air dry only**. Never apply heat to fabrics. NO DRYERS.
5. Always store your tent clean and dry and it will serve you well.
6. Keep Your Camper Tent Pest Free, it is important to also make sure to give your Camper Tent a thorough vacuuming after every trip.

14/4 Ethell Road      PH: 02 8544 0976  
Kirrawee 2232      Fax: 02 9589 4457  
NSW

Web: [www.bluetonguecampers.com.au](http://www.bluetonguecampers.com.au)  
Email: [info@bluetonguecampers.com.au](mailto:info@bluetonguecampers.com.au)

