

Pitching a Lightweight Tent

This resource can help with the following Camping areas:

- Stage 1: I can help pitch a tent.
- Stage 3: I can show a younger member of my team how to pitch a tent with the help of others.
- Stage 4: I know the best place to pitch our tent and I can explain why.

Tent pitching is an invaluable skill for all scouts. It's important that you know how to do it in such a way that is safe, correct and most importantly, will keep you safe and dry in any and all conditions. There are loads of different types of tents out there: lightweight, dome, Icelandic, etc.

Firstly, it's important to select a type of tent that will most suit the needs of you/ your group. If you're going hiking for a weekend, you'd want to bring a small, lightweight, sturdy tent. If you're going on a 2 week summer camp you might prefer to have a bigger heavier duty tent for you and all your gear.



There are different sizes of tents. Mostly they are categorized in '100's. So a 2 person tent would be a 200, a 4 person would be a 400 and so on. Choose a suitably sized tent to ensure comfort and avoid carrying unnecessary weight.

Pitching the tent:

Empty the entire contents of the bag out.

Lay everything out in front of you. Generally there will be an outer canvas (fly sheet), inner canvas, poles, and pegs.

Start by assembling the poles. Then, determine whether they go into the fly sheet, or the inner canvas.

Put the poles for the larger area in first (generally the sleeping area). There may be a colour coding system where the colour of the pole will correspond to a coloured tag on the pole sleeve. Insert the remainder of the poles and leave all lying flat on the ground.

Starting with the bigger area, push the pole up and insert the end into the 'key' at the base of the fly sheet. Proceed with the rest of the poles until you have the shape of the tent.



Next you want to peg in the tent. Ensuring that the doors are closed, start with the corners and keep pegging until all peg points have been secured. Stretch the tent out as far as it will go, this will make it most water resistant and avoid sagging.

Peg in the guide ropes next. These should be in the direction of the seam that they lie on.

Go into the tent for the inner section. Starting at the bottom back, hook the hooks onto the fly sheet. Then work the 'ring and bar' system up along until the inner is properly attached to the fly sheet.



Here is just a few extra tips on tent pitching:

- When you finish pitching the tent, put the peg bag, pole bag and tent bag in a safe place so you don't lose them.
- Try to pitch your tent on high ground. If it rains during the night you won't wake up in a newly formed puddle.
- Make sure to put pegs in at an angle away from the ground. This will prevent them from bending and gives more stability. It is also helpful too if the ground is stony/hard.
- Some tents will come with a 'material canopy' that goes on top of the sleeping area. Remember to attach this before you peg in your tent and can't reach it any more.
- For guide lines, peg them loosely at first, you can tighten them all at the end to give more stability.
- As for the length of the guide lines, if you know the weather conditions will be harsh, try to make them as long as possible. It will ground your tent a lot more.
- Finally, when dismantling your tent, ensure all the parts are still there and are still in working condition. If not, ensure to leave a note for the next person who needs this tent.

