COVEN WITH THE UNEXPECTED

Even though Sierra Designs uses only the best quality materials, accidents and normal wear and tear do take their toll on your tent.

Poles
Before pitching your tent, be sure all sections of your poles are fully engaged at their joints. Gap at section joints will expose the poles' insert to forces for which they were not intended. This can cause them to bend or break. Tent pole inserts are sufficiently strong for their function, but only when they are fully engaged and connected with their mating brackets.

While assembling or folding your poles, be sure not to allow a pole's sections to snap against one another as the impact can cause denting of the tube ends and stress fractures. Try to avoid dropping or striking your poles on rocks during setup. Since pole damage most frequently occurs during pitching or when homepage occurs around the tent, be sure not to bend your pole into tighter curves than they naturally assume in the tent - take extra caution in high wind situations. Excessive bending or distortion of the poles can occur in a free-standing tent if it is picked up by only one of its poles while moving the tent. Mating bending by pushing on the poles at the pole interactions. A slightly bent pole does not lose its strength and does not require replacement unless it distorts the shape of the tent.

Proper care of poles includes keeping them clean and free of dirt and salt. Always rinse poles with fresh water if exposed to salt water or after coastal camping. Occasional lubrication of the section joints with silicone spray will help the joints slide together freely and will ward off ice forming problems in snow.

Shockcord
Your Sierra Designs poles are assembled with stretchier shockcord - the only elastic cord created especially to withstand the rigors of serious backpacking/mountaineering use. Keeping your poles in a fully, or even a partially extended position during long-term storage will relieve the tension on the elastic cord and help to insure maximum performance and reliability. When folding your poles, be sure to fold from the center out so as not to place uneven tension on the elastic cord.

- Occasionally the shockcord in your poles may break, pull out of the pole, or just go limp. This is not a disaster, the pole is still perfectly functional. The tension on the pole when it is set up in place on the tent will keep it together. Finish your trip and return the pole to the Sierra Designs Warranty Department at your leisure for repair.

Zippers
Always be gentle when operating zippers, avoid standing on them and try to limit exposing them to dirt and grit. Taking these precautions combined with frequent cleaning will prevent them from premature failure.

Tears and Damage
Despite your best efforts, sometimes damage does occur to your tent. Water-based self-adhesive repair tape is sold at many outdoor stores and several pieces can be tacked into the tent bag without adding any appreciable weight. An infrared based seam sealer product can be used to plug small holes and duct tape works as well for minor field repair. It's a good idea to carry one or a combination of these things with you in the tent in event the tent is damaged while in use.

Condensation
Condensation is the build-up of moisture on the inside of your tent and tent walls due to a temperature difference between the inside and outside of your tent. Condensation occurs mostly when the conditions are cold, rainy, or humid, although it can occur at any time. The best way to minimize condensation is to increase the ventilation within your tent and between the tent body and fly. Completely guying out the rainfly will keep it together. Finish your trip and return the pole to the Sierra Designs Warranty Department at your leisure for repair.

Sierra Designs Warranty and Repair Service
We maintain a full repair facility to aid you with any problems you may have with any Sierra Designs product. We offer a lifetime warranty against defects in materials and workmanship, and for a nominal charge we will repair damage due to accidents or normal wear and tear. This warranty does not cover damage caused by improper care, accidents, or the natural breakdown of material over extended use and time. California State Law requires all items returned for repair must be clean.

Sierra Designs does not wash tent Dirty tents will be returned to sender for cleaning.

You may contact the Warranty and Repair Department with comments or questions at the address below or by calling (800) 736-8551 during regular business hours.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TENT

Before You Go Camping: Weatherproofing Your Tent
The rainfly and center floor seam (if applicable) of your tent have been taped at the factory. While seam tape significantly increases the weatherproofness of your tent, additional seam sealing will improve the performance of your tent in rainy conditions. For additional weatherproofing, seal all places where attachments are sewn to the fly, including webbing. Velcro, snaps, guy outs, and zipper tracks. The best way to seal your tent is to use a urethane-based seam sealer and run a thin bead around the base of the attachment, wherever it is seen to the fly. Do this to attachments both on the inside and outside of the fly. Additionally, the perimeter seam of your tent floor cannot be mechanically sealed. To complete the barrier against water seepage through the floor of your tent, seal this seam by running a bead of seam sealer inside the perimeter of your tent floor. Make sure the seam sealer is completely dry before re-packing your tent.

Caring for Your Tent on the Trail
It is important to select a site which has been cleared of any sharp objects such as rocks or sticks. Many people prefer to store ground sheets under the tent for additional protection. If you choose to do so, make sure the feet of the tent completely covers the ground sheet, or the sheet will collect rain. Tent footprint are now available for all current Sierra Designs tents.

Staking and Guying Out Your Tent
Most Sierra Designs tents are free-standing, not requiring the use of stakes in order to pitch the tent. This is a minus of convenience, allowing poles quick set up and easy moving and cleaning of the tent. All tents, freestanding, or not, must be staked out properly in order to achieve full structural integrity and prevent wind damage. No lightweight, back packing style tent, whether rated for serious backpacking/mountaineering use. Keeping your poles in a dry environment.

Dirty tents will be returned to sender

Mildew damage is not covered under warranty.

Asphyxiation, severe or even fatal burns are possible if a stove is used in a tent or vestibule without adequate ventilation. Additionally, a hot stove can melt through your tent floor if the stove is not rigorously insulated and pots of hot liquid, if left uncovered, may create a condensation ridden tent.

Ultraviolet Light
Ultraviolet light is one of the most damaging of all the elements. When exposed to prolonged and extensive sunlight most fabrics will fade, lose strength, and eventually break down. Try to minimize exposing your tent to the sun. Store it during the day or pitch it in shady areas.

Animal Hazards
Animal damage to tents is all too common, but is usually easily avoidable:

- Never store food in your tent!

What to Do When the Trip's Over
Dry your tent completely before returning it to its stuff sack. This is the single most important aspect of tent maintenance. If stored wet, mildew growth will certainly occur, resulting in the degradation of coated materials. Mildew damage is not covered under warranty.

Hand wash your tent with a mild soap and a sponge. Do not use harsh detergents, chemicals, or abrasive materials. Dirt particles left in the weave of the material speed up the deterioration of the fabric. Clean tents last longer.

WARNING

KEEP ALL FLAME AND HEAT SOURCES AWAY FROM THIS TENT FABRIC

- This tent is made with flame resistant fabric which meets CPAI-84 speci-
  fications. IT IS NOT FIREPROOF. The fabric will burn if left in continuous
  contact with any flame source. The application of any foreign substance
  to the tent fabric may render the flame resistant properties ineffective.

Additional Warnings:

- This tent must not be properly vented in all weather conditions. In
  extreme weather conditions, snow could clog air intake and allow as-
  phyrization unless cleaned frequently.

- Never use full-burning, oxygen consuming devices (i.e. heaters,
  lanterns, cooking stoves or other flame source) inside your tent.

- A few little children unattended inside a tent.

- Anchor your tent security to provide additional security from chang-
  ing climatic conditions. Snow, ice and/or heavy rocks may be
  necessary to supplement tent stakes and guy cords.