

10 TENT TIPS FOR HAPPY CAMPING



Tuck the edges of your ground cloth under your tent so water dripping off the rainfly won't collect and pool underneath.

Or, buy a **FOOTPRINT**, a ground cloth made to fit the tent floor without extending beyond the fly.



NO STAKES?

If you have stuff sacks handy, fill them with rocks and attach to the guylines. At the beach? Fill the sacks with sand and bury them.



Many tents have

TWO GROMMETS

at the corner stake-out tabs. Poles normally fit snugly in the outer grommets when you set up the tent. When wet, the tabs can stretch and allow the walls to droop. Move the poles to the inner grommets to restore the nice taut pitch.

Always dry out your tent before packing to prevent smelly **MILDEW!** Too late? It's possible to remove the odor by soaking the tent in a tubful of water and MiraZyme®, or similar product, and hanging it out of direct sunlight to dry completely.



TENT
IN
HERE

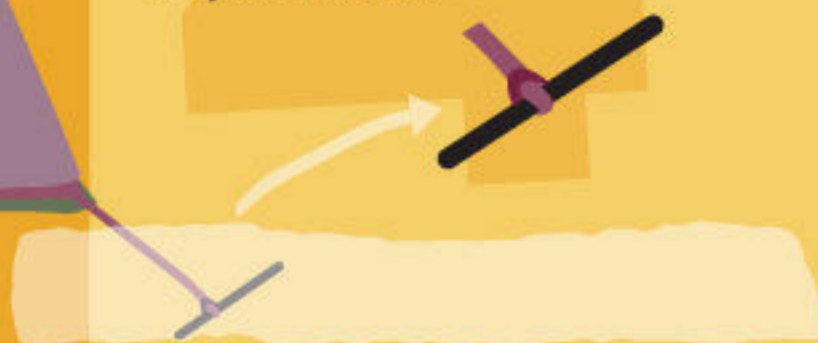
Stake out your rainfly using a handy
TAUT-LINE HITCH



Loop the guyline around a tent stake. Bring the end under and over the tight line and twice through the loop you just made. Then, again, bring the end of the rope under, over and through the new loop you formed, and slide up on the line until the knot holds.



On **SNOW**, anchor your tent by burying a trekking pole or ice axe "deadman" style. Tie into the center of the pole or axe, then bury it so that the line and stake form a "T". Be sure to bury several feet deep or they can melt out.



TRAVEL LIGHT!

Carry just the poles, fly and footprint. This setup won't fend off mosquitoes, but it's cool and airy—and with the room you save in your pack, you'll be able to bring along your tiny designer canine.



OUTWIT MOSQUITOES!

(Wait, do mosquitoes have wits?) Anyway, in breezy weather, face your tent door into the wind.



The buggers will be hiding on the downwind side of the tent to keep from being blown away, so your clever scheme will prevent them from following you in!

SHOCK-CORDED POLES

Don't shock the cords, man! Collapse poles starting in the middle, not the ends. And flinging poles like light sabers? Fail!



Each time you put your tent back in its stuff sack, **FOLD** it differently, or simply stuff it in. This helps prevent creases that can wear out the waterproof coatings.



Sources:

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