

Stout
TENT

B132
CACHILLA

BELL TENT SETUP GUIDE

HOW TO SETUP
YOUR BELL TENT

FIRST SETUP



FIRST SETUP



SEASONING YOUR TENT

If your tent leaks the first time it is exposed to water, don't panic! Your tent **is** waterproof. The water is just naturally "seasoning" your canvas.

We sew large canvas panels together to make our tents. This process can leave behind tiny needle holes that allow a small amount of water to penetrate the seams.

When your tent gets wet for the first time, the canvas swells and seals those holes. This process is called "seasoning."

We use the smallest needles possible, so most of our tents don't require seasoning. That said, canvas is a natural material, and each batch reacts differently to sewing. Sometimes seasoning is necessary.

To season your tent:

1. Set up your tent
2. Spray it down with a hose, focusing on the tent seams
3. Let it dry completely (overnight or until fully dry)

Tent Seasoning

* Our Sunforger and Stargazer models are more likely to require seasoning due to the thickness of the canvas and additional PVC panel seams.

FIRST SETUP

FIRST SETUP

Guylines

The first time you set up your tent, you will need to tie your guylines to your tent. You can leave the guylines attached when you pack up your tent for a quicker setup next time.

Knot Tying



Stove Jack Installation

If you opted for one of our stove-ready tents, you must cut open the stove jack before using it for the first time.

Under the velcro canvas flap, you'll find a 3-inch hole centered in a durable grey high-temp fiberglass material measuring 14 in. wide by 18 in. long.

This hole can be cut to accommodate a stove pipe up to 6 in. in diameter. We start with a smaller hole because it's easier to make it larger if needed, rather than the other way around.



Stove Jack
Installation

TENT SETUP

Stout
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HOW-TO

BELL TENT SETUP INSTRUCTIONS



IN THE BOX

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Stout bell tent | 12 Small metal stakes |
| 1 Folded center pole | 12 Large metal stakes |
| 1 Tri-fold "A-frame pole | 12 Guy ropes |
| 12 Metal sliders | 1 Rain Cap |

1 Clear the Ground

Fill any holes and remove rocks and other debris from the area where you plan to set up your tent.

Remove the canvas tent from the bag and unfold completely.

A-frame doors should be zipped shut.

2 Stake the Tent

Start at the door and stake the underside of groundsheet at a 45° angle with the **small** metal stakes. Repeat this all the way around the tent.

3 Center Pole

Once your tent is staked, unzip the door and extend the center pole. Find the black cone in the center of the tent floor. Match it with the black stopper on the center pole.

The small metal hoop should be on the top section of the pole. Now, push the pole upwards to raise the tent's roof. Adjust the pole so it stands upright.

The center pole can stand by itself to support the tent while you finish setting up.

TENT SETUP

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The A-Frame

Get the A-frame pole and enter the tent. Once in, click the pole sections together. Put the metal spike on the top of the A-frame through the matching hole in the canvas above the door.

Now you can move the A-frame forward into the door space until it is upright. There are pockets on either side of the door to keep the pole in place. Once it is up, place the rain cap on top of the spike on the outside of the tent. Repeat on the second A-frame if you have a double-door tent.

5

Stake the A-frame

Zip the A-frame shut and start staking the guylines (rope) with the **large** metal stakes. Start with the guyline above the front door, then the two on either side of it.

TIP

Don't skip the A-frame guylines. Without them, the A-frame can fold inward and damage the tent.

If you want to keep the doorway clear, use an extra guyline and run two separate lines to the stake points on either side of the door instead of one centered in front. Both ropes can share the same stake.

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Stake the Guylines

Stake all guylines with the **large** rebar stakes using the roof seams as a guide. Tighten with sliders once staked.

For the first setup, tie ropes through the canvas loops on the roof overhang; after that, keep them attached for faster setup. Ropes should extend about 4-4.5 ft. from the tent.

TIP

The roof overhang/ flap where you attach your sidewall guylines should extend 4-4.5 in.



SETUP CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST

TENT SETUP CHECKLIST

Do your future self a favor and take the time to set up your tent correctly **every time!**



SETUP CHECKLIST

- ✓ Sidewall guylines are aligned with roof seams
- ✓ Some slack in door zipper
- ✓ Sidewalls are high and tight
- ✓ Groundsheet zipper sits 4 in. above ground level



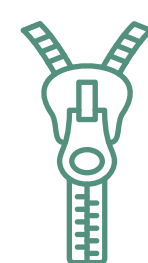
Zipper Slack

✓ Align Sidewall Guylines

When staking your sidewall guylines (the ones that extend from the roof overhang), follow the seam line directly outward.

Guylines should extend **4-4.5 ft.** beyond the tent.

✓ Slack in your Door Zipper



Make sure the guylines that extend from your A-frame door are taught, but not overly tight. Leaving a little slack will ensure that your zipper is not under constant tension, which can cause stress to the canvas and lead to tearing.

SETUP CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST



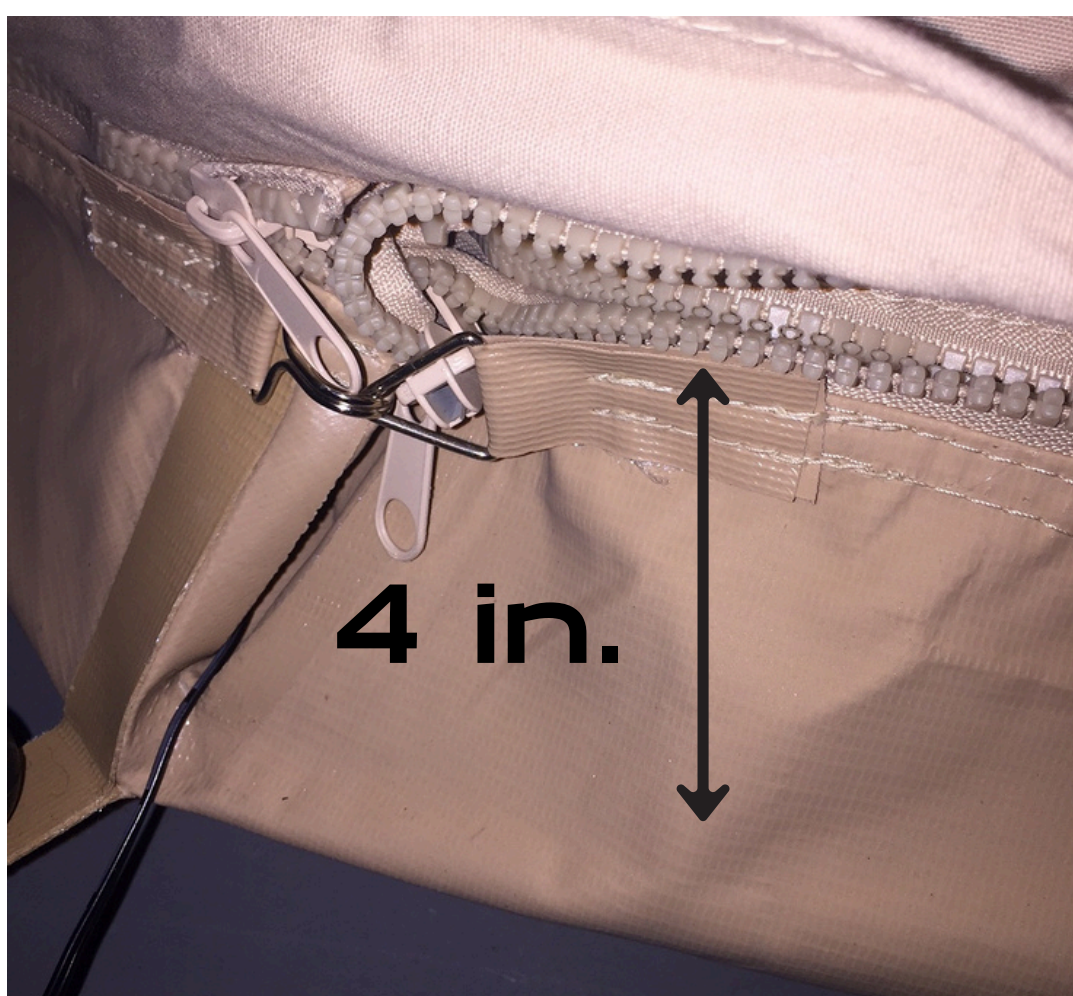
High and Tight Sidewalls

Slouchy sidewalls can leave your tent susceptible to wind damage and leaking.

To ensure sidewalls are high and tight:

1. Make sure your groundsheet is laid out flat and securely staked down. If you notice looseness or wrinkles, restake the groundsheet so that it is flat and tight.

2. Make sure your sidewall guylines are pulled tight. The roof overhang should **extend about 4 in.** from your tent, creating both outward and downward pressure, allowing water to run off.



Groundsheet Zipper

Make sure your groundsheet is pulled tight so that the zipper sits about **4 in. off the ground**. This creates a "bathtub effect", preventing rain and groundwater from seeping in.

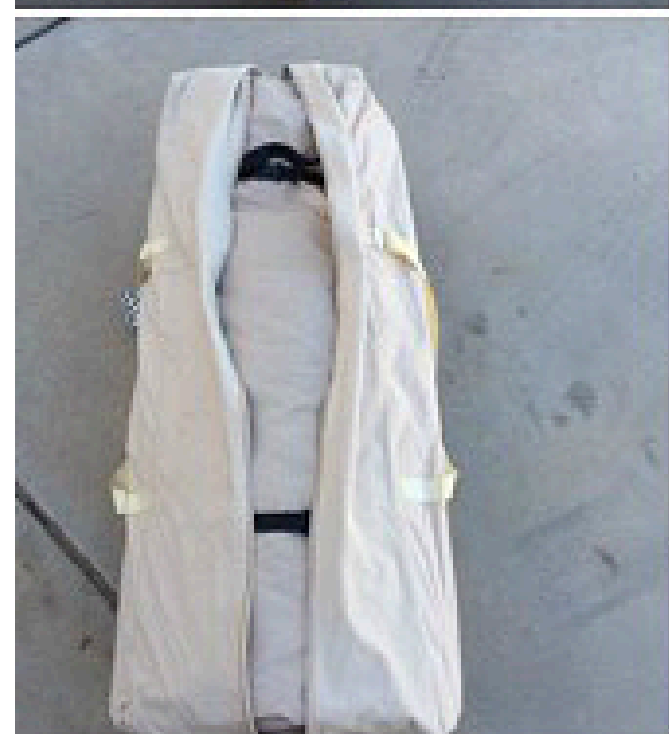
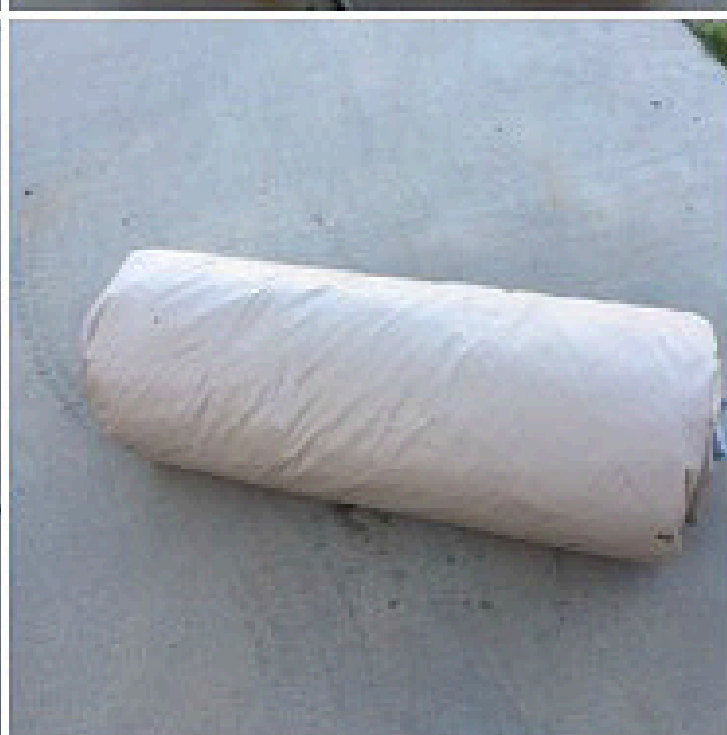
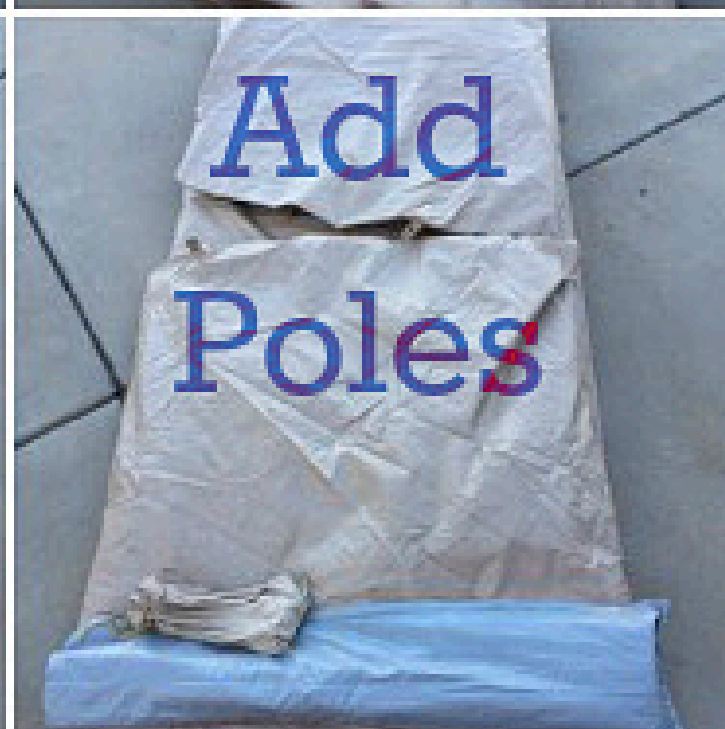
TAKEDOWN & PACK UP

HOW-TO

1. Pull all of the outer rebard stakes and put in stake bag.
2. Pull out the A frame pole and center pole and put both in the pole bag.
3. Pull smaller inner stakes and put in stake bag.
4. Throw the ropes on top of the tent.
5. Fold tent in half on the door - window to window, grommet to grommet.
6. Move the tent from the spot it was set up in and then sweep the back side of the tent
7. Once it is dry, flip it over and then sweep the other side.
8. Fold the curved top of the tent over to make a rectangle about the width of a pole bag.
9. Place the pole and the stake bags on opposite side of the door and roll towards the door.
10. Roll tight using your arms and legs and place the tent in the proper bag.

TAKEDOWN & PACK UP

HOW-TO



[CLICK HERE](#)

STORAGE

HOW-TO

Stout Tents are built to last. Follow these steps when packing away your tent to maintain and increase its longevity properly.

- 1. Store your tent (in or out of the tent bag) inside a plastic storage bin.**
- 2. Store off the ground and away from critters.**
- 3. Close all zippers before putting away the tent. Use zipper lube to keep them in top shape.**
- 4. Store in a cool, dry place.**

TIP

It is vitally important that your tent is COMPLETELY dry before packing away to prevent mold growth.

**NEED A LITTLE MORE GUIDANCE?
WE GOT YOU.**

[HOW TO SET UP YOUR TENT - YOUTUBE VIDEO](#)

[HOW TO STORE YOUR CANVAS TENT - BLOG](#)

[ADVANCED KNOT SKILL - YOUTUBE VIDEO](#)

[STOUT TENT MAINTENANCE GUIDE](#)

[A WORD ON LONG-TERM SETUPS](#)



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