

Stout
TENT



Stout Tent Maintenance Guide


Maintenance Guide For
Commercial & Long-term Use

First, a word about long-term setups:

Stout Tents are purchased every day by discerning customers who intend to use our recreational camping tents as short-term homes, bnb's, or permanent retreats that they can visit on the weekends. We're grateful for these clients because with their feedback and real world testing we have pushed our product into becoming the most solid, trustworthy tent on the market.

We have used our extensive knowledge of Canvas, and their feedback from around the globe on different uses to put together a very extensive maintenance guide to help those who wish to pursue a long-term setup the very best advice that we can provide. We are happy to send canvas samples out to you so that you can test and try them in your own environment, and we're sure you'll be as pleased with them as we've been. We're also always available for a phone call, and would love to help chat about any issues you may encounter, or brainstorm some ways to make your tent experience successful in a tough environment.

That said, in terms of our return policy and warranty, you'll be accepting that pursuing a longterm setup with a recreational tent, comes at your own risk. We've seen tents left up long-term standing up for 5+ years, sometimes with very little maintenance, but that's not the norm. Usually long term use tent life depends on a diligent tent owner, careful engineering of your setup, daily/weekly maintenance, and environmental factors.



High humidity and moisture areas seem to have the shortest lifespans, mold grows pretty quickly in these places. Customers have had success but it takes more work. We've helped a customer with a tented lodge in the rainforest where mold even coats the bedsheets sometimes! Constant wind can be a challenge as well, overcome by many, but we've seen tents thrashed because they were left up a little too loose, a little too long.

Our most successful long-term setup customers are campgrounds that operate with a daily maintenance crew, and storage during the snow season. If you are not up for reading through the maintenance guide and instructions carefully, and checking on the tent frequently, this may not be the solution to your long-term tent dreams. I'd encourage you to think about how outdoor awnings, furniture, and boat bimini tops do in your neck of the woods. If you're not sure if this tent would be a good fit for your purpose, give us a call, we'll be happy to discuss this with you.

Due to our strong reputation for quality, dedication to customer service, and our generous wholesale pricing, we've become the leading choice for most rental, and event companies as well as the increasingly popular Glamping hotels. We'd love to earn your business as well, but we don't want to overpromise and sugar coat what goes into these setups in order to do that.

Now, onto everything you need to know about maintaining your Stout Tent for commercial and long-term setups.

Initial Setup

MAINTAINING YOUR STOUT TENT

Please follow the printed instructions and our setup video when setting up your Stout Tent for the first time. After you have completed your initial setup, please email our team pictures at info@stouttent.com so that we can carefully look over your setup and help advise you on any adjustments that might need to be made. With that in mind, please take a look at any and all sections below that apply to your location.

PRO-SERIES

The lifespan of a PRO series tent set up long term could be as little as one year if the tent is not maintained properly and if mold is allowed to grow, or if the canvas receives too much UV exposure and starts to deteriorate. If you can keep up on maintenance you will have a much longer lifespan. As long as the canvas is protected it can last over 5 years. A note on pressure washing: We recommend less than 70 psi on this tent with a pressure washer.

OVERLAND SERIES

The lifespan of an Overland series tent set up long term could be as little as 3 years if you don't keep up maintenance and mold is allowed to grow, or if the canvas receives too much UV exposure and starts to deteriorate. If you can keep up on maintenance you can have a much longer lifespan. As long as the canvas is protected it can last over 10 years. Because of the canvas weave, it can even be pressure washed at 170psi without weakening the canvas. It's sturdy strong stuff! It is heavier however and stretches more over time, and is a little stiffer to work with.

Initial Set-up

PLATFORM

A well-built platform or deck will help to lengthen the lifespan of your tent. We've seen these set up several different ways, but your main objective is to keep the tent off of the ground, away from vegetation, on a nice sturdy, unchanging, and flat surface. Technically, we're looking for a fair amount of tension on the tent, and we want to see the side-walls very straight.

A-frame guy line alternative approach:

If you use an extra line, this rope can be split and go to both front stake points in order to provide a more clear path of entry into the tent. Ideally this will be 3' from the tent straight out front, using the two guy line points directly to the left and right of the front door. Each of the 2 ropes can share that stake.



WATER ISSUES

RAIN

Rainwater should bead up and run off of the tent when set up properly. It's a good idea to test your setup with a garden hose to ensure that you have set up the tent properly before the first rainfall. If you have the roof overhang too far down (more like a tipi), you will be directing water to run right into the zipper and windows where leaking could occur. If you have the overhang of the roof too high, you'll be encouraging water to pool on the seam, where with time, it can start to seep down the sidewall. Pooling water also means that you have created a risk factor for mold growth.

In addition to making sure water runs off properly, you will want to make sure that water pours off of the roofline directly onto the ground. In order to do that, you'll need to make sure that tension is set so that the sidewalls of the tent are straight. If they sag outwards, the water will run off of the roof and onto the sidewalls (possibly into the zipper or window which is not ideal and can cause leakage).

DRIVING RAIN

Driving rain can sometimes hit the tent with pounding force, this means that when it hits the water-resistant canvas, it will bounce. There can be times where wind and downward force can cause the water to bounce into the tent through the 4 vents at the top. A way to prevent this would be to close the vents, but then the tent would suffer a loss of breathability. A good way to test this possibility is to try with your garden hose to imitate how this could happen. You'll notice when water enters this way it will run down the center pole, or sometimes run down the inside of the tent roof to the side walls.

Driving rain can also hit the ground aggressively and splash mud onto the sidewalls of the tent. This can be avoidable if the tent is on a platform. Mud is easier to remove when wet. You may want to hose the mud off of the sidewalls when the heavy rain has subsided, but before the canvas has a chance to completely dry out. Mud may stain, and it may also carry mold spores, giving them a nice place to implant and cause issues.

WATER ISSUES

LEAKING

Please see the leaking troubleshooting list. Most of the information there is also covered throughout the water issues section of this maintenance document. It is highly unlikely that the canvas itself is actually leaking unless it needs to be re-proofed for water resistance. We like to keep a bucket and sponges on hand for heavy or driving rains so that we can quickly address any water that has pooled at the center pole, or possibly around the perimeter of the tent if water got through the vents this way.

RE-PROOFING FOR WATER-RESISTANCE

If you have recently done maintenance on your tent (washing the canvas can strip the canvas of its original factory treatment) you may need to re-proof your tent. You may also notice that the water resistance will fade with a lot of UV exposure, or any decay/molding of the canvas. To re-proof, we recommend a product called 303 Fabric Guard. You will need 1 to 3 gallons to restore water resistance depending on the percentage of water resistance left on the fabric.

APPLYING THE TREATMENT

1. Pour the 303 into a pesticide sprayer.
2. You will want to begin to set the tent up, but go inside and take down the center and a-frame poles. You'll want to put a saw-horse inside to keep the center of the tent elevated, but not out of reach of the sprayer.
3. If you are in extremely arid conditions, spray the tent with water first, and allow to mostly dry so that your canvas is ready to soak up the treatment.
4. Pump the sprayer to obtain some pressure build up.
5. Spray the top of the tent with 2 gallons of 303 fabric guard. We recommend wearing a mask, while you do this step. If your tent has been aggressively power-washed, you may want to use a third gallon of 303.
6. Go inside the tent and replace the poles.
7. Using another gallon of 303 to hit the sidewalls and pay attention to the seam between roof and sidewalls.

WATER ISSUES

Rule of Thumb for Water-resistance:

When you notice that water is no longer beading up and running off of the canvas, it's time to re-proof.

FLOODING

Always remember to scout the area that you will place the tent through a season of weather. Note where water pools, drains, and runs off. If you are in danger of heavy rains/flooding (even if seasonally) you may want to consider an On Platform Setup. Being off of the ground has several advantages, one of which is the ability to completely circumvent flooding. Our tents are all built with a 4" lift in the groundsheet, called the bathtub effect, to elevate the location of the zipper. Sometimes flooding from a heavy rain can temporarily reach above that mark, even just for a few minutes before it soaks into the ground, and can seep in through the zippers. An alternative to a platform setup is a great natural drainage system.

DRAINAGE

We've had clients use a layer of hay, or pea gravel to encourage water to drain into the ground and not pool, as well as creating a higher elevation for the tent(s). You'll also want to make sure the tent isn't placed downhill. If you do have some level of inevitable water naturally encouraged to head your way, make sure to create small drainage paths with berms and channels to direct water away from your tent.

Water Pooling Under Tent:

Another benefit to having the wooden platform is the ability to keep water from pooling under the groundsheet. Although the water will not be able to permeate the groundsheet, it can cause molding on the underside of the groundsheet, erosion of the ground underneath. See more on Drainage.

OUTSIDE

RODENTS

Keeping the tent off of the ground will help keep the rodents and small animals from burrowing under the tent for shelter. They can be noisy neighbors, and if persistent enough could chew or claw through the PVC groundsheet.

VEGETATION

Keep falling leaves and creeping foliage away from the canvas as much as possible. A sunshade can assist with this if you are near a deciduous tree.

BIRD DROPPINGS

Birds droppings can be acidic and dangerous for the canvas, and they can also carry mold spores. These spots should be cleaned quickly to prevent staining, and damage to the canvas. Our sunshade will help keep these spots to a minimum.

CONSIDER THIS

Setting up under trees is popular because of the shade and the beauty, but it can be hazardous for your canvas. Consider a Sunshade to cut temperature and keep falling foliage and bird droppings off your tent.



[FIND IT HERE](#)

MOLD

Our canvas is treated against the 500 most popular strains of mold in North America. In most areas mold and mildew won't be an issue unless you are dealing with a particularly difficult strain that isn't protected against in our factory treatment. In most cases, you won't have a mold battle unless you've packed the tent away wet.

If you see mold start to grow, even a bit of discoloration, you will want to spot treat that spot. Take a picture and send it to us for help identifying the mold and we can recommend a plan of action moving forward.

MOLD INSIDE THE TENT

The biggest thing you can do to protect against this type of rare mold growth is to make sure that you have the tent windows opened at the top. Mold inside of the tent happens when moist air gets trapped inside of the tent and interacts with bacteria inside of the tent, attaching to the inside of the roof. This is an indication that your environment is a High Humidity environment and you'll need to do some extra steps for prevention. You may also want to educate your guests on not using sprayable sunscreen or hairspray in the tent, because we've heard that these chemicals can interact with the treatment on the canvas.

EXTREME MOLD

If your tent(s) will be in a location with a known mold issue, you may want to consider fogging the tent with a Concrobium product. Concrobium contains no toxins, ammonia, acids, bleach, or volatile organic compounds. The material safety data sheet for the product does not call for any special clothing, masks, or goggles for protection during spray-bottle application. When applying with a fogger, a mask is recommended, but only to avoid breathing the excessive moisture from the fog. According to the manufacturer, the product is food grade, although we opted not to taste it.

MOLD

EXTREME MOLD continued

Concrobium purportedly works by forming a physical barrier over the mold, which crushes the mold spores and kills them. This also forms a protective layer to which mold cannot attach and grow. It can be applied to a variety of surfaces, including fabrics and wood, without staining, although the maker advises testing on a small area first. We have tested our canvas with this and we've not seen any ill effects from it.

The frequency of fogging can be variable depending on the particular environment. The product has a warranty against new mold growth for 90 days, but we've had clients successfully fog their tents once a season. We've also heard clients fog their mattresses, bedding, and wooden items inside of the tent as well. Foggers can be rented at Home Depot for \$25/day, and you can purchase some online for a few hundred dollars.

If you see mold start to grow, even a bit of discoloration, you will want to spot treat that spot quickly. While concrobium will prevent mold growth, it won't remediate or clean canvas that is already compromised. If you have used a bleach-based cleaner on the canvas, the bleach can cause the concrobium to be less effective.

SHADE

Ideally, you'll get some sun on your tent each day to keep things nice and dry. A complete tree cover provides a gorgeous view, and a nice shady break from the heat, but it will be hard on the canvas as moisture tends to be higher in these areas. Mold needs moisture, and bacteria to grow. If you are considering a fully-shaded setup, you will want to consider adding an anti-fungal treatment to your maintenance routine. Some of our more eco-conscious properties use diluted lemon juice/peroxide to spot treat areas. The sun does a fantastic job of drying and bleaching the canvas.

WIND

WIND

If you can manage to move your tent every 6 months to a year so that one side doesn't bear the brunt of the wind patterns in your area, it will help to equally distribute the environmental factors. Our tents can withstand a burst of wind speed of up to 70mph. We have had several reports that they have withstood hurricanes that affected the US. It is important that the front a-frame is properly anchored so that the frame does not fall inwards towards the center pole. Due to the sharp point on the a-frame, this could rip/damage the canvas if it was to fall into the canvas.

CONTINUOUS OR EXTREME WIND

This can cause hardly visible vibrations of the center pole (the only point of resistance in the design). The metal center pole will eventually vibrate through the rubber stopper, and could then cause damage to the canvas cone (top of the tent). The cone is designed to rip before the canvas does because it's an easier repair. If you are in an area with excessive winds, you will want to keep the tents very tight, and you will want to routinely check in on the center pole rubber stoppers. Replacement stoppers can be sent your way for \$2/set or can be purchased from a local hardware store. You'll also want to keep an eye on the canvas loops around the tent because the strong nylon rope can slowly saw through the canvas with time in those conditions. In order to prevent that from happening, you will want to tie the rope to itself, and repair loops that have been compromised quickly. Windy setups can benefit from a good wooden platform, with attachments for the guy lines, because even the rebar stakes that come with our tents can rock back and forth with constant wind and loosen themselves out of the ground.

BEACH

BEACH SETUP

These setups can be extremely challenging because they will encounter all of our major risk factors: Water Issues (See sections on High Humidity, UV exposure, Constant Wind), and you'll also have the added challenge of sand and salt water. Salt water with time can erode the treatments on the canvas, and then start to deteriorate the canvas itself. Sand setups mean that the guy lines are challenging to get tight, and you will want to look at either sand stakes ([amazon link](#)) x 24, or you will want to hand-make 3-4 foot rebar stakes. We have some customers who have made concrete anchors out of large coffee cans that are buried far under the sand. For long-term use in a beach location, we recommend using a wooden deck setup, and our Overland Canvas, treated with Sunforger canvas treatment, which is used in most marine canvas (boat bimini tops, boat covers, sails) applications and is world re known for it's ability to resist marine molds, mildews, and uv exposure.

Rule of thumb for UV exposure:

To know what to expect in terms of UV exposure, think about the way that your outdoor furnishings do in the sun. If they get a season or two, it's fair to expect a similar timeframe from your tent.

The canvas can be reproofed to be protected from the sun! We recommend 303 Fabric Guard for that. You'll follow the same application as described in the Waterproofing section.

A Sunshade is a great way to add a protective layer to your Stout Tent. It allows for breathability but restricts some of the UV exposure. Even this hardy shade will disintegrate over time. In the Arizona high desert, we can get about 2 years before we start to notice some wear on these - but can get 5 years before it reaches EOL. Think about the wear and tear that saves on the canvas!

STORAGE

STORAGE

Storing your tents during the off-season can be a great way to elongate their lifespan if done properly. You want to make sure that your tents are clean and dry when you pack them up at the season's end. See our General (End of Season) Maintenance section for more details.

Storage space should be a dry area. Do not store your tents in a building that could experience any leaking, or in a basement where a water source could unknowingly get onto the tents. We've heard stories of clients losing multiple tents to mold, due to leaking pipes, and they did not find out until they pulled them out for the next season's use.

- Rubbermaid Bins with Lids: If you need to store somewhere that water or humidity is a potential issue, it's worth investing in these [Rubbermaid bins](#). A 5M tent fits inside and can be an easy way to ensure that they are kept dry. If in a humid environment, it's a good idea to include [desiccant packages](#). I like these.

-Rodents: Mice will love to make a nest in this warm canvas for the off-season, so if there are rodents in your area, this would be another reason to invest in the Rubbermaid or alternative plastic bins as well.

END OF SEASON

GENERAL END OF SEASON MAINTENANCE

-Zippers: It's a good idea to vacuum out the zipper tracks and lubricate the zippers (not too much, a little goes a long way). We like the zipper lubricant sold by Star Brite, but any will do.

-Netting: Shakeout/beat out as much dust as possible with a soft towel. Combine water and a laundry detergent and in a spray bottle, spray the netting down (careful not to get too much on the canvas), and then use Terry cloth towels to blot/agitate spots out. Our netting is nylon netting.

-Stains on Canvas: Depending on what the stain is, you may want to approach it in different ways. One of the best things you can do is to set the tent out in the sun, both inside and outside up to receive a little UV rays. This will naturally bleach out lots of stains. You will also want to take a soft brush (toothbrush works well) and water to any that need a little agitation. We can recommend approaches for sap, biological stains, etc. Please contact us if you believe that you have an issue with one of those stains.

-Powerwash the groundsheet with bleach on both sides to kill any mold/bacteria from the ground, shoes, and feet. We recommend using a push broom and a pressurized hose nozzle to get these nice and clean.

Do you have a question we didn't answer?

Every setup, environment, and circumstance is different. If you're experiencing a challenge or have a question that we didn't cover, please call us. A Stout Tent canvas expert is happy to talk with you about your unique situation and provide advice.

Check out our YouTube page for helpful videos as well! We've listed a couple below to get you started.

[Setting up your Stout Tent](#)

[Stove Jack Installation](#)



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WWW.STOUTTENT.COM

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