



Deck and Platform Guide





We get a lot of calls asking about decks and platforms. While they look beautiful, it's important to know that a deck is not required for a successful long-term setup and sometimes it can actually cause (different) problems!

Here's a list of the Pros and Cons to a deck or platform setup for your tent.

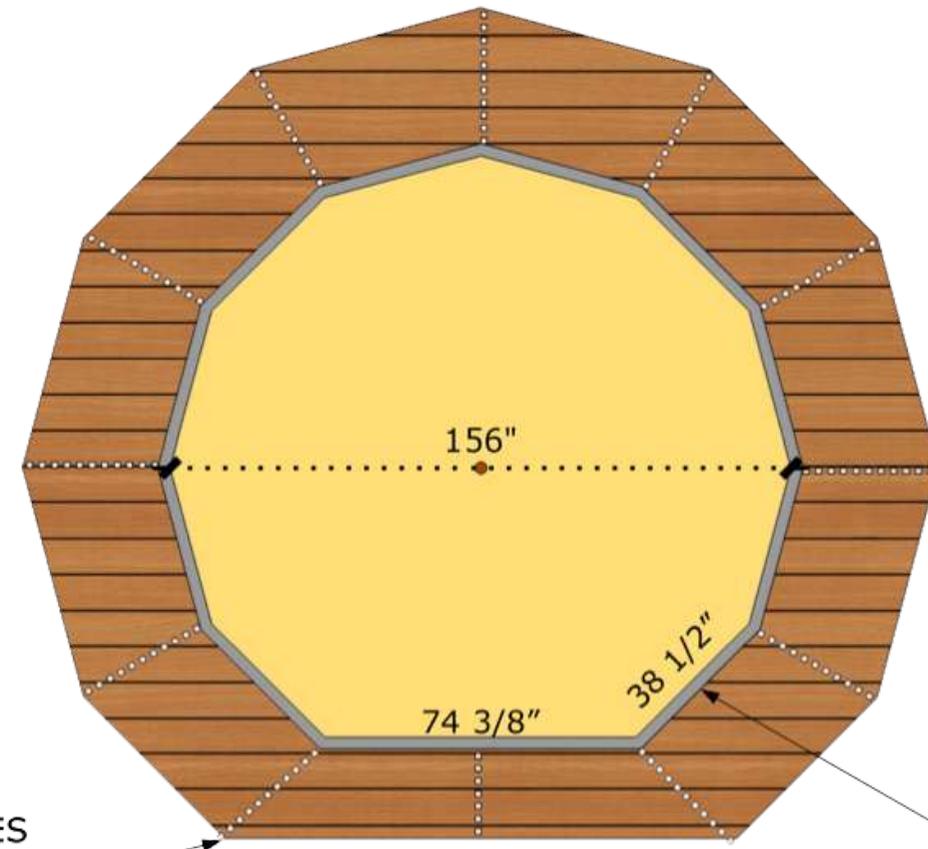
PROS

- ✓ Prevents animals from burrowing under your tent.
- ✓ Prevents mud splashing up on tent when it rains
- ✓ Prevents flooding
- ✓ Can provide additional insulation, either keeping the tent off a cold ground, or allowing for more air flow.
- ✓ Not as much dirt tracking inside the tent
- ✓ Provides ambiance, aesthetically pleasing

CONS

- ✗ Can stress the seams and canvas
- ✗ Less 'give' on a non-moving structure
- ✗ Possibly a little less wind resistant because of higher profile, and no ground anchors
- ✗ Can be expensive to build

4M Deck Diagram



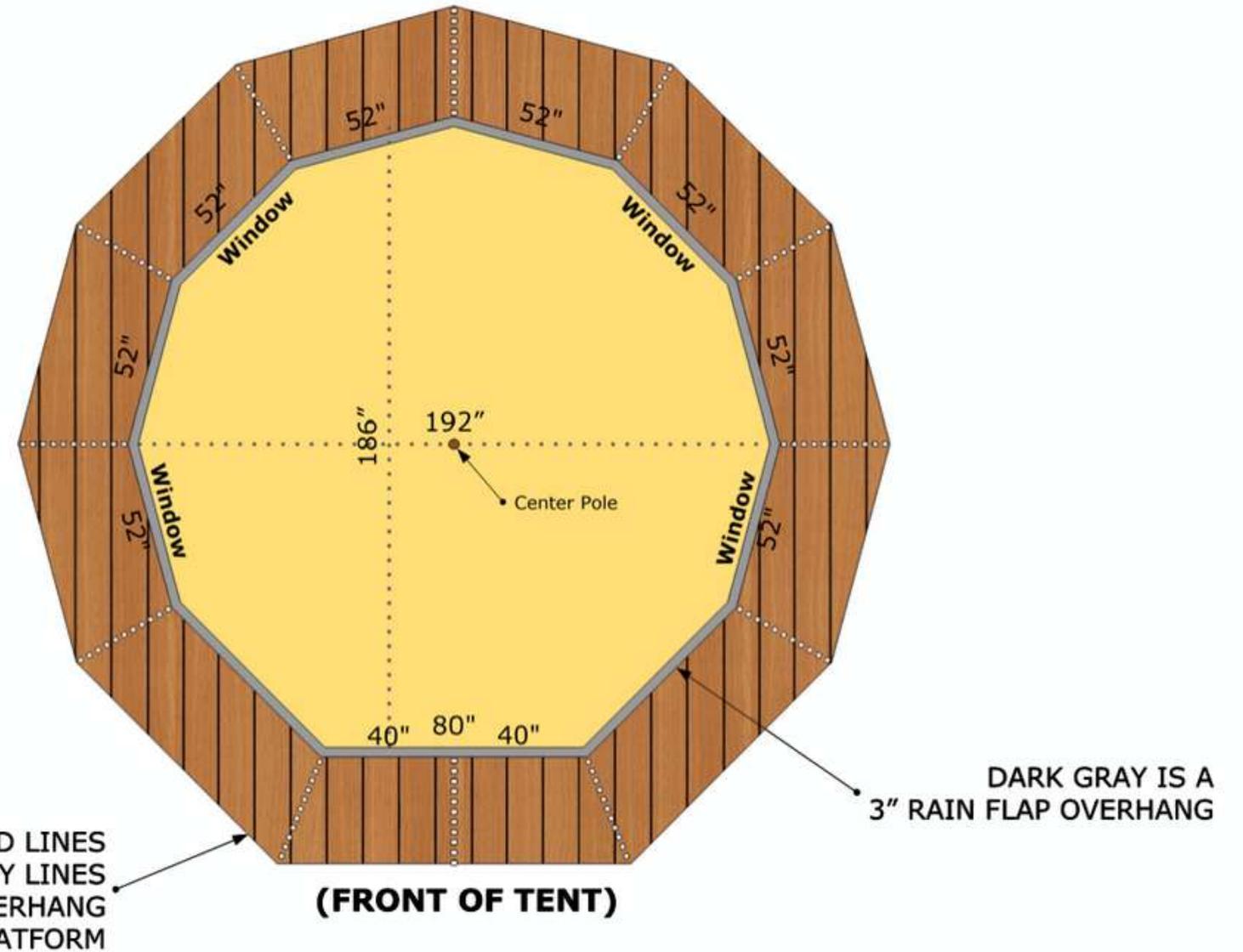
DOTTED LINES
REPRESENT GUY LINES
WHERE THE OUTER OVERHANG
TIES OFF TO THE PLATFORM

(FRONT OF TENT)

DARK GRAY IS A
3" RAIN FLAP OVERHANG

Important notes: The front door is a flat side, as if you had a circle, and then snipped a bit off.

5M Deck Diagram



Important notes: The front door is a flat side, as if you had a circle, and then snipped a bit off.



There are many ways to build your deck or platform, but the decks that we've seen have the most success have these things in common:



Anchor the A-frame (*Don't skip those guy lines, you'll need them even more with a deck build since this is where the wind will meet resistance.*)



Hold the ropes up higher than ground-level (*Keeping outward pressure, not just downward pressure.*)



Careful not to pull the ropes so high that you have water pooling on the seam connecting to the tent (*we still want water run off*).

TENT UPGRADES

- ✓ Add Metal D-ring customization instead of canvas loops
- ✓ Ask us to put in an AC jack if you think you'll use one. Don't put that exhaust through the window, or the added weight will pull the canvas down.
- ✓ PVC Cap for pole topper
- ✓ Overland edition - If you're going to leave your tent set up on a semi permanent basis, make sure you're using the canvas best designed for long term use.
- ✓ Add a Sunshade or build a roof on your deck. UV rays will degrade the canvas over time, especially if you have your tent in direct sun exposure.

You'll also want to follow our regular long-term maintenance instructions, especially in relation to the ventilation.



THERE ARE THREE GENERAL SHAPES IN BELL TENT DECKS AND PLATFORMS:

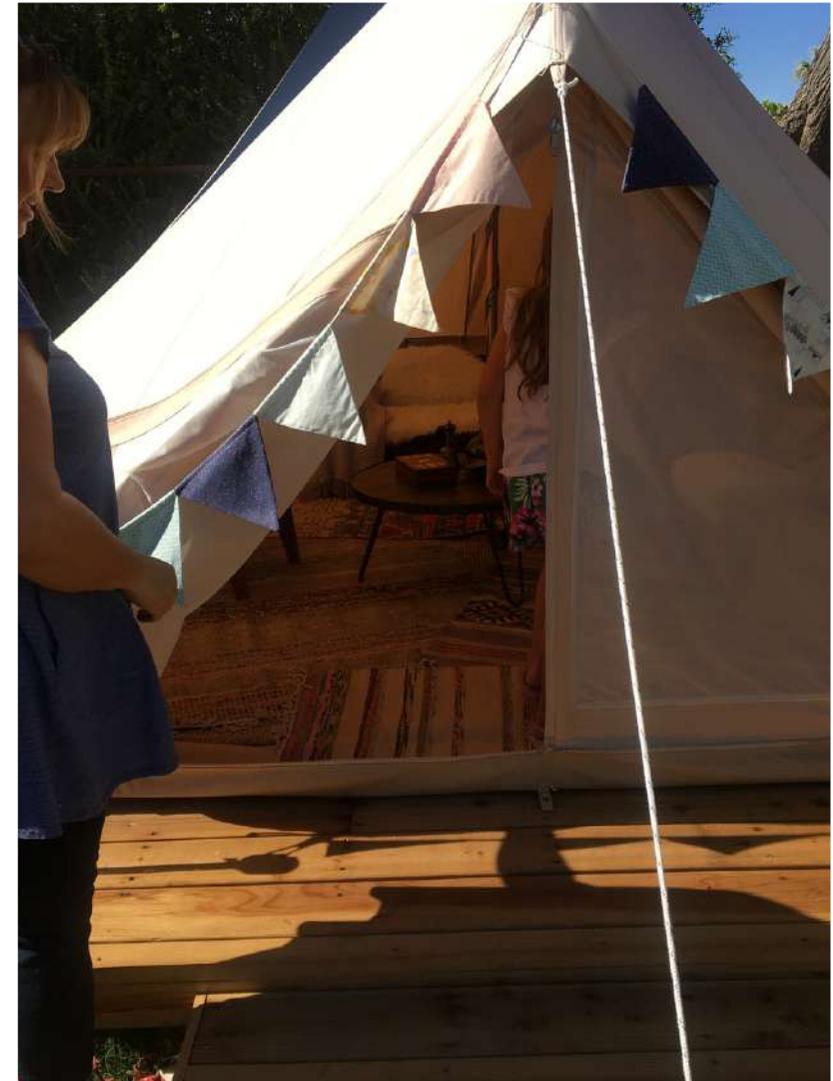
- 1) **Polygon** (please see rendering [here](#) and an example [here](#));
- 2) **Square** (16'4" tent footprint + 4'-4'6" for the guylines - as small as 20' x 20', which is referenced below at "Decks");
- 3) **Rectangular**, which creates a porch, sitting, or staging area in front for a cozy glamping feel (this footprint has been so popular in South Africa over the decades it is sometimes referred to as "South African-style").

Decks: You can go as small as a 20' x 20' platform or deck, but you'll want to make a connection point for the guylines up higher (we've used 3/4" pipe anchored to the deck, and then the lines can connect directly to that). The reason we recommend this is so that the guylines aren't anchored down with too much force. On a 20' x 20' deck, you risk having too much downwards tension and too little horizontal tension.

The larger the deck, the farther the guylines can extend, so the less height you need to add on the poles that the guylines connect to. We have a client who uses a small deck, and they use a PVC at the top of their pole, and put a piece of high-density foam on top so that there is more "give" since they can't do the proper line extension.

Our norm has been for rebar braced on the deck side ([here](#)) and a hook used for the groundsheet loops ([here](#)) - this configuration provides the necessary tension and toughness for a long-time.

CUSTOMER SUBMITTED PHOTOS OF THEIR DECKS





SoulPad Cotton Canvas Bell Tents

PDF **A Building Guide to a rectangular deck**



GROWING YOUR BUSINESS?

WHOLESALE DECK PURCHASE

Building your own deck can be time consuming and expensive, especially if you are building multiple decks for a glamping property.

We sell the following modular deck for growing businesses.

(minimum order of 8, for the 5M size only at the moment)

PRICE : \$4,340 + shipping

LEAD TIME : 30 - 90 days



- Modular Design comes ready to use
- Can sit directly on the ground
- 8 pieces (movable with 2 people)
- Click-and-lock design for easy assembly and disassembly
- Compatible with "Leveling Jack" on uneven ground



