

SoulPad 5000-ridge™

Instruction Manual.

Version 1, Published Nov 2014. © SoulPad Ltd. 2014

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WELCOME

Dear SoulPadder,

Thank you for choosing a SoulPad tent. I welcome you whole-heartedly to the SoulPad community. If you didn't already have it, you now have soul.

Please keep this instruction manual in a safe place and remember to take it with you each time you use your SoulPad equipment. These instructions are also available on our website.

If this is your first erection, please don't be nervous. We've all been there and we're keen to help show you the way. Very few of us achieve a perfect erection first time, but before long yours is sure to stand as proudly as any other good, strong erection that has stood before it.

It's generally easier for three people to get an erection, but if you follow our guidelines two people can do it alone. So relax, take it slowly and let us know how you get on!

If you ever have any questions not covered in this manual, please contact SoulPad Ltd. direct. We will endeavor to assist you.

We hope that you will connect with us on a deeper level and join us on the various social networking websites on the web today. It is here that we SoulPadders tend to share pictures, tips and advice and we hope you will too.

With soul,
Mr OM

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Who Is Mr OM?



Mr OM is the most loveliest, cuddliest, kindest, sweetest, soufulest guy you'll ever have the pleasure of meeting. He likes nothing better than to hang out with friends in his SoulPad, chewing the fat whilst listening

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to some cool tunes. He has a twinkle in his eye and a lot of love to give. His friends and his SoulPad are the most important things to him in the whole world. He needs both to remain strong and positive. Both offer him unconditional support and both are always there when he needs them.

Why is he called Mr OM? Do you see how his head doesn't quite join together? Well, that's not because he's a few slices short of a loaf. Absolutely not! Quite the opposite is true. No, in fact, his head is that way because he has an Open Mind (OM). He is a good listener and he will not judge you. Mr OM embraces life with all 5 of his heightened senses.

INTENDED USE

The SoulPads are intended for regular, light, leisure use.

It is our opinion that SoulPad tents do not make for a suitable permanent shelter. They are primarily a temporary structure. They are classed as a Touring Tent (type T) in accordance with ISO 5912.

The average touring tent user will use their tent for up to two week long bursts, up to three times a year. They will pack and store their tent away dry in-between uses.

We are aware that some SoulPad customers do choose to use their SoulPad for long periods at a time, and in some instances as a permanent shelter (some with far more success than others). This is done so against our recommendation.

Specifically, the SoulPads are designed for use in temperate climates during Spring & Summer. Using SoulPad tents outside of this scope will likely affect their longevity.

THE NATURE OF CANVAS

The SoulPads are made from cotton canvas. Cotton canvas is a natural material. As such colour variances and minor imperfections in the canvas can be expected. These variances and imperfections should not detract from the overall performance of the product.

TRIAL PITCHING OF THE TENT

It is recommended that all SoulPad users conduct a trial pitching of their SoulPad tent to become familiar with the equipment ahead of when it may be needed most.

Erect the SoulPad according to the instructions. Never assume you will remember the order in which to erect your SoulPad. Bad habits are easy to fall in to and can have a negative impact on the longevity of your SoulPad.

CHOICE OF THE SITE

Check with the land owner on the best places to pitch. They will understand best how their land fairs during different types of weather. The ideal site is flat and well-drained with short grass on a sound soil structure. Avoid areas which are prone to flooding.

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Avoid pitching under trees. Pitching under a tree and in woodlands can present problems: -

Falling leaves - left on the canvas to get wet can cause discoloration and degradation of the canvas beneath.

Bird droppings - birds like to rest in trees and leave deposits on your SoulPad.

Falling debris from the tree - can penetrate the canvas.

Mould and mildew formation - can be accelerated in woodland conditions, as it is here (damp, moist conditions) that mould and fungus can thrive.

The direction of the prevailing wind should also be taken into consideration. Try to pitch with the side of your SoulPad facing the prevailing wind. This will help to conduct the wind over the SoulPad rather than up against either entrance.

An uneven pitch will place uneven tension on the canvas, poles and other components, as will an overly exposed pitch.

Once you have selected a good spot, before pitching remove any stones and loose debris that may cause damage to the groundsheet or discomfort underfoot.

ITEMS INCLUDED

x10 pin pegs
X30 stake pegs
x2 apex pole rain caps
x1 peg bag
x1 canvas fly sheet with groundsheet attached
x1 canvas bag
x1 central pole
x2 apex poles
x4 corner poles
x1 ridge pole
x1 pole bag
x30 guy lines with slides

GETTING STARTED

Here follows a quick guide to pitching your SoulPad tent. More detailed instructions can be found in the pages that follow.

1. Peg out the groundsheet so it is taught.
2. Position the ridge pole on the inside of the tent.
3. With 2-3 people lift the ridge pole up on to the apex poles.
4. Fit the A frame caps.
5. Close entrances and windows and peg out the guy lines evenly.

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6. Apply tension to the guy lines evenly.

HOW TO ERECT YOUR SOULPAD TENT

The order in which your SoulPad is erected is very important. Never assume you will remember the order, and always make sure you have a set of instructions with you each time you pitch your SoulPad tent. SoulPad users can fall into bad habits and receive bad erection advice from other campers. This can have a negative impact on the longevity of your SoulPad and its overall performance. In case you lose them, these instructions are also available on our website.

It is recommended that the SoulPad-ridge is erected by a minimum of two people. Three people are preferable.

Groundsheet

1. Lay out the groundsheet as flat as possible, with the canvas on top. Make sure you have the entrances facing the correct direction and the entrances are zipped closed.
2. Using the smallest pegs (the pin pegs) peg out the groundsheet keeping it as taught as possible.

Guy Line Preparation

3. Now it's time to get the guy lines ready. The first time you erect your SoulPad you will need to unravel all of the guy lines. Do not peg out the guy lines at this stage; we're just getting them ready for later steps.
4. The plastic on the guy line (the black nylon 'slides' that create the peg loop and allow us to adjust the tension) should rest about 50-70cm from the point they are connected to your SoulPad to begin with. This allows you room to adjust the tension in later steps. You will use the loop created by the guy line to fasten the larger stake pegs through later.

Poles

5. Unzip the entrances and with the canvas flat on the ground carefully position the ridge pole centrally inside the length of the tent. The ridge pole is the longest pole, it is in two connectable parts, when assembled it will have a hole at either end through which to receive the spike at the top of the apex poles, and it has an adjustable section where the two connectable parts meet. You are able to adjust the overall length of the ridge pole, depending on the terrain. It is better to start with the ridge pole positioned at its shortest length.

It helps to have a person at each entrance in order to complete this exercise without damaging the canvas or groundsheet as you can both lift the canvas out of the way for the pole to take it's position.

6. Two people should now take the apex poles (with spike at the top) to each entrance on the outside of the tent.
7. One person will need to go into the flattened tent with the central pole (this pole has a 'C' shape on the top of it that will shortly be fitted to the ridge pole. The remaining two people should help by lifting the canvas up and allowing the third person access with the central pole.

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8. Now, simultaneously all three people should lift the ridge pole up, raising the canvas 'roof' as they do so and positioning their poles onto the ridge pole at the fixing point.

The apex poles need to have their spike fitted through the ridge pole hole and through the eyelet in the canvas flysheet (at the apex, over each entrance).

The central pole needs to be positioned centrally along the ridge, giving it support at its centre.

9. The SoulPad-ridge tent's roof should now have been lifted fully and will be under some tension from the initial peg out of the groundsheet. It is this tension that helps to keep your SoulPad in place when fully pitched.

10. Make the central pole and apex poles stand as vertical as possible, in the centre of their space. The poles should now hold upright by themselves. The canvas will droop but the poles shouldn't slip out of position. Go back outside.

11. Attach the A frame caps to the apex pole spikes on the outside of the tent (to stop water getting in)

12. Zip the entrances closed.

Guy Line Positioning

In the first instance the guy lines should be pegged out with plenty of slack. In the first steps of pegging out the guy lines our aim is simply to get the positioning right by following the lines of the seams in the canvas.

It is very important that the guy lines are not pegged out with too much tension at this point, because we will apply tension evenly in later steps.

Use the larger stake pegs for the guy lines. Don't push the stake pegs all the way into the ground or else you won't be able to adjust the tension on the guy lines later.

13. First peg out the eight guy lines that form the 'eaves' over the entrances (remember, with plenty of slack). Complete one entrance at a time.

14. Now peg out the next two guy lines along either side of the entrances. Do one entrance at a time. Continue with this methodical sequence until all of the guy lines are pegged out.

15. In the same methodical sequence in which you pegged out the guy lines, now adjust the slides on the guy lines to take up the slack with even tension. Get the canvas nice and taught without stressing any of the components. The best way to do this is to hold and pull the canvas loop where the guy line is attached to the SoulPad (noting its affect on the SoulPad's roof and wall), and take up the slack by re-positioning the slide.

You will see the roof and walls begin to relocate more neatly at this stage.

NB: Too much tension or the incorrect positioning of the pegs may cause the wall to crease.

15. Check that the storm flap (the canvas guard that rests over the groundsheet-to-fly zip at the entrances) is positioned downward, to protect the zip from any rainfall.

Well done, Job done! Cup of tea anyone?

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PACKING YOUR SOULPAD TENT AWAY

Make sure your SoulPad tent is completely dry before packing. Your SoulPad needs to dry out while pitched, any other way and the air may not circulate satisfactorily. This can be difficult during the colder months but is an absolute must. If it is wet moulds will appear, these are often extremely difficult to remove. If you must pack it away wet, you must pitch it again within 24 hours. Even if you have to pitch it in wet conditions, this will prevent the problems that occur when leaving a wet SoulPad tent in its bag. A SoulPad tent is better off wet but pitched than it is wet and packed in a bag without air circulating around it.

The canvas bag is large enough to contain your SoulPad in its entirety. However, it is advisable to pack the poles and pegs separately from the canvas in order to protect the canvas from damage.

1. Remove all of your belongings from the SoulPad tent.
2. Close all of the windows.
3. Remove the A frame caps and place them in the peg bag ready for next time.
4. Three people will need to go inside the SoulPad tent and simultaneously remove the apex poles and the central pole, carefully allowing the ridge pole and canvas to rest on the ground. Take all poles outside of the SoulPad tent and place inside the pole bag ready for next time.
5. Zip the entrances closed.
6. Outside the SoulPad tent reposition all of the slides so that they rest approximately 50-70cm from the point they are connected to your SoulPad's walls, ready for next time.
7. Remove all of the stake pegs from the ground, remove any loose dirt and place inside the peg bag. As you do this throw the guy line onto the canvas fly sheet out of the way for later. Be careful not to throw dirt onto the canvas in doing so.
8. Remove all pin pegs from the ground and groundsheet, remove any loose dirt and place inside the peg bag.
9. If the groundsheet is particularly dirty it is a good idea to remove the dirt now before packing away. You can dry out the groundsheet by exposing it to the air. If the weather is fair any exposed groundsheet will dry out within around 15 mins. You can dry it like this in sections at a time.
10. Fold the rectangular tent in half along its length with the canvas tucked and folded in on the inside. Fold in half again.
11. Now you can choose to either place the poles at the top of this shape and roll them into the canvas. Or to protect the canvas from the poles you can roll this shape without them. Remove any debris as you roll.
12. Fasten the canvas with the ties it came with. Helping it to hold its shape whilst in the main canvas bag.
13. Place the rolled canvas into the main canvas bag.
14. It is good practice to store the poles, pegs and canvas in their separate bags in order to protect the canvas from the other components.

STORING YOUR SOULPAD TENT

1. Only store your SoulPad tent if it is dry.

Never store it if the canvas fly sheet or the groundsheet is damp or wet. Both the groundsheet and the canvas must be completely dry before storing. Otherwise there is a very high risk of mildew forming on the canvas. Mildew is often irremovable, and so its prevention is of very high importance.

If you are forced to pack your SoulPad tent away when it is damp or wet then it must be erected again within 24 hours, even in adverse weather.

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Do not hang your SoulPad tent to dry as mildew is likely to form in the creases and folds.

2. Store in a dry place.

Moderate, temperate conditions are ideal. Extremes of temperature will harm the structure of the canvas. The optimum storage temperature is room temperature.

3. Do not store anything on top of your SoulPad tent as this may distort the canvas or cause harm to the other components.

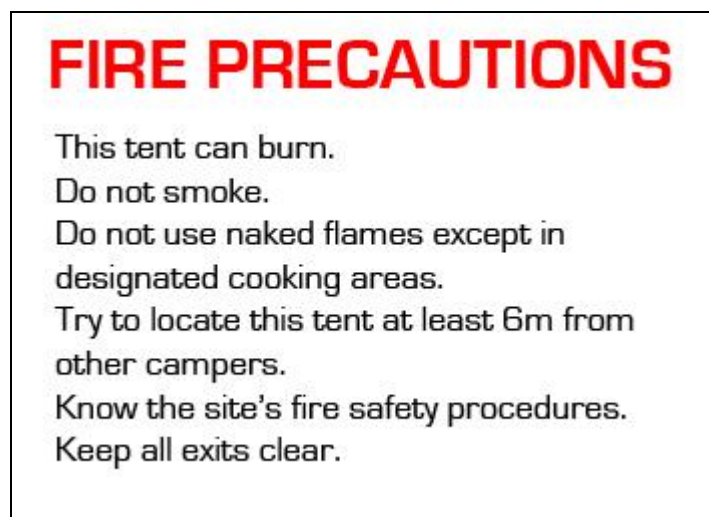
4. Your SoulPad tent should be taken out of storage at least once a year to allow it to recover from its compacted and stored state.

5. Be aware that rodents and insects can cause damage to stored SoulPad tents.

6. Choose your storage area carefully and remember to check on your SoulPad tent from time-to-time. For example: five minutes spent checking the bag for dampness, or checking for signs of rodent activity could save you time, effort and unwanted repair costs later.

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

There is a legible notice permanently attached inside your SoulPad tent, to the left of the entrance as you enter the tent. Do not remove it. These Fire Precautions should be noted and followed each time you use your SoulPad tent. It reads as follows: -



Never block the exits of your SoulPad on the inside or the outside of the tent. In the event of an emergency the exits will need to be clear of obstacles to allow the occupants to vacate the tent as quickly as possible.

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Use a Smoke Alarm

It is advisable to include a small hand held fire extinguisher as part of your camping kit along with a smoke alarm.

The SoulPads do not have a designated cooking area. Cooking equipment should be used outside the SoulPad tent. Please carefully follow the instructions that came with your cooking equipment.



VENTILATION

The SoulPad 5000-ridge has four large windows on the entrance flaps. These are lined with a mosquito mesh. These window vents must be used regularly. Never block the vents. To do so will compromise the tents performance and the occupant's safety.

CARBON MONOXIDE RISK

Carbon Monoxide is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. It is toxic to humans when encountered in concentrations above about 35 ppm. It is the most common type of fatal air poisoning in many countries and too many campers are killed by this gas each year.

The most common symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning may resemble other types of poisonings and infections, including symptoms such as headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, fatigue, and a feeling of weakness. Affected people often believe they are victims of food poisoning. Infants may be irritable and feed poorly. Neurological signs include confusion, disorientation, visual disturbance, syncope and seizures.

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Use a Carbon Monoxide Alarm

For your safety we recommend the use of a Carbon Monoxide alarm inside your tent.

PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE

The lifespan of your SoulPad is very much dependent upon the camping conditions and the way in which you care for and maintain your SoulPad. Air pollution, ultraviolet radiation, natural dirt (bird droppings, sand, salt and water) and domestic dirt (cooking stains, wine and sun cream) all limit the lifespan of your cotton canvas SoulPad tent, as will the level of care and maintenance that you choose to apply. Any problem areas should be dealt with immediately.

Weathering

Brand new cotton canvas tents can often leak on their first few wets, with the leaks becoming less and less with each wetting and drying process. This doesn't always happen, but some new cotton canvas tents may need to go through a process called weathering. Weathering is the wetting and drying of a canvas tent.

Some water droplets may penetrate the canvas to begin with, but the cotton fibres in the weave will eventually swell and nestle into each other. The result is a perfectly water resistant tent and one that will give years and years of good service if it is looked after properly. Some SoulPad tents will need weathering two, three or even more times before every last water inlet is eliminated. With patience, those last few drips will eventually cease. This process can be accelerated artificially using a fine spray on a hose pipe if preferred. For the weathering process to be completed (either artificially or naturally), it is important that the tent dries thoroughly in-between wets.

Commonly water will accumulate on the labels inside the SoulPad tent during the weathering process, or where the vertical walls are attached to the sloping roof. This falsely gives the impression that these are problem areas. This is not the case. Again, this will eventually cease.

Loose Pegs

If the ground is too wet or soft (such as with sandy soil), pegs may become loose and pop out of the ground more easily in a small breeze. In this instance it is advisable to switch to wooden pegs as these purchase the ground better in such conditions.

Loose Poles

If there is not enough tension on the poles they will move. Please check the pitching instructions and follow them carefully.

Migrating Slides

The slides on your SoulPad tent will need to have tension re-applied to them following heavy rain, or wind. Check them over periodically. If you plan to use your SoulPad tent in particularly adverse weather conditions (especially windy conditions) it is advisable to switch the standard slides to locking slides. Always close all windows and entrances before adjusting the slides.

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Correct Placing of Items Inside The SoulPad Tent

Do not place items too close to the canvas. During windy and/or wet conditions these may harm the canvas or cause it to let in water.

Do not hang objects from any of the fixings inside the tent intended for the inners. This will cause undue stress on the canvas and may cause distortion. The objects you hang may also cause damage to the canvas during windy conditions.

UV Degradation

Ultraviolet radiation can affect the SoulPad tent's canvas performance and its water resistant capabilities. When re-waterproofing your SoulPad tent, look for products that also include UV protection.

Immediate effects of UV can be 'bleaching' - a change in colour of the canvas to lighter shades. Compare your SoulPad canvas fly sheet with the canvas bag it came in. They are made of the same material but it is likely that the canvas bag has been less exposed to UV. Is there a marked difference in colour? If so, it may be time to treat your canvas fly sheet. UV can also lead to a reduction in the effectiveness of the waterproofing and anti-fungal treatments.

All of the components used to produce SoulPads tents have anti-UV treatments and properties but will need to be monitored carefully and replaced at the first sign of degradation. All the canvas used to produce SoulPad tents is treated to be water, UV and mould resistant to protect it from dirt, ultraviolet radiation and fungus. SoulPads can be used straight out of the bag, without any need for treatments prior to use. However, the treatments will not last forever. Your SoulPads lifespan will depend largely on how well you replenish these treatments.

Guy lines and slides will eventually need replacing and a common cause for accelerated wear can be due to UV exposure.

Snow

SoulPads are not winterised tents and as such they are not intended for use in snowy conditions. If for any reason your SoulPad does find itself in these conditions you must regularly remove the snow from the canvas surface. The SoulPad tents are not designed to withstand heavy payloads of snow.

Zips

Zips sometimes endure extreme tensions. These can be caused by wind gusts, improper erections and adverse pressures caused by people or objects leaning against your SoulPad. Close all zips before erecting, adjusting or taking down your SoulPad. Handle the zips with care. To protect the zips treat them with silicones once in a while. If a zip on your erected SoulPad seems strained, play with the tension on the guy lines or adjust the positioning of the wall loops to find out which adjustment helps the zip to function better. When a SoulPad is erected incorrectly it can cause the zips to fail.

Re-proofing

This is the process of replenishing the treatments already applied at the point of manufacture. Spotting when it is time to re-proof can be difficult. A SoulPad tent that has enough proofing agents present will cause the water on the surface to 'bead' after a downpour.

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The tent will dry quickly in a breeze or sunlight and it will not fade when exposed to UV. You will literally see beads of water forming on the outer surface of the canvas. When it is time to re-proof your SoulPad, you will notice that the water no longer beads, and that the SoulPad retains the moisture in the canvas for longer, taking longer to dry than before. The colour of the canvas may also have faded. In the worst cases mildew will start to appear in the form of small irremovable specs.

Reproofing is simple. SoulPad recommends the use of Granger's Fabsil with UV. 10 litres of this product is enough to treat even the largest of SoulPads. Please follow the manufacturer's guidelines when using this product. In simple terms: add the liquid to a pressurised container and spray onto the outer surface of the dry SoulPad tent (in fine weather) and allow it to dry. A fine coating is sufficient.

Fungus & Mildew

One of the most common problems to occur in canvas is mildew. This is easily preventable.

There are a number of reasons why mildew develops in canvas (exposure to dust and/or bacteria for example). It is most commonly formed when exposed to certain conditions of humidity and temperature.

The onset of fungus or mildew is a sure sign that your SoulPad is past needing a treatment with a cleaner and waterproofing agent, or that it has been stored incorrectly.

Even if the canvas is mildew resistant, mildew will form if left damp. The best way to dry your SoulPad tent is for it to be fully pitched and allowed to dry naturally in fair weather. It should not be hung to dry as fungus and mildew could form in the folds and creases of a hung SoulPad tent.

Mildew is very destructive to cotton fabrics as well as other materials. Mildew most commonly forms when tents are stored damp. However, depending on the environment mildew can start while the tent is set up also. Under certain conditions of humidity and temperature it's on-set can be very fast indeed. If mildew has started to grow, it can be stopped from spreading by thoroughly drying the tent (preferably in the hot sun) and applying a cleaner, followed by the re-waterproofing of any areas cleaned.

When dealing with fungus use a soft brush or sponge and a lot of fresh water to remove as much as you can and to stop the fungus from spreading. Only use specialised canvas tent cleaning products for this purpose. Other domestic, chemical products can be too harsh and cause the canvas structure to breakdown and leak.

Be sure to air your tent from time-to-time. Condensation levels should be kept to a minimum by regular airing. Open the windows and entrances regularly to allow air to circulate inside the tent too.

Keeping grass and weeds trimmed around the bottom of the tent is also important since dampness clings to foliage and does not allow air to get to the fabric.

CLEANING YOUR SOULPAD

If using your SoulPad frequently or for long periods of time, a cleaning and re-proofing treatment should be applied more frequently.

It is easy to spot when a SoulPad needs to be cleaned. However, we all have different standards and a sloppy cleaning and maintenance regime will cause the SoulPad tent to deteriorate more quickly. The sooner a dirty or stained spot is dealt with, the better. Left for too long and the problem may spread and lead to other problems such as canvas disintegration whereby the material begins to 'dissolve' and disappear

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completely.

It is advisable to first use a specialised cleaning agent on your SoulPad tent, then a specialised waterproofing agent. The other way around will cause the waterproofing agent to be washed away. If you ever spot clean an area of your SoulPad, always re-waterproof that area too. Whether it is a small area that is being treated, or the entire SoulPad, this is an important rule to follow as failure to do so will lead to leaks.

It is in your interests to keep the canvas as clean as possible and remove stains when they first appear. Dust and dried mud is better wiped away with a soft brush before a cleaning agent (and then re-waterproofing agent) is applied.

If you feel the cleaning and treatment is beyond your capabilities then your SoulPad tent can be taken to a professional canvas cleaning specialist to be cleaned and re-treated. Feel free to contact SoulPad for details of third parties offering this service in your area.

Never try to clean your SoulPad in a washing machine. This will cause too much damage to the canvas fibres and it may also damage your washing machine.

REPAIRS

Inevitably accidents do happen and SoulPads get wounded in the process. The components used on SoulPad tents have been selected for their durability and ease of maintenance. You might be surprised by the level of repair you can achieve yourself.

Canvas; Always apply any repair work on the outside of your SoulPad tent. Small rips in the canvas can literally be stitched closed using a common needle and thread (use as fine a needle as you can bare, and try to match the cotton colour to the canvas). Larger rips and tears will need to be patched, but again use a needle and thread to do so. Try to use the same canvas colour and type as the original SoulPad. If applying a patch, try to use a diamond shape with the peak of the diamond being upmost. This will enable any rain run-off to disperse more quickly than a patch applied squarely.

When stitching, always try to keep the stitching runs tight and close together. It might pay to go over the same area a few times just to be sure you have achieved a good seal.

It is a good idea to include a basic sewing kit with your camping equipment. Having access to common needle and cotton thread can make or break a trip away. Other campers may have to end their trip due to a rip or a tear, but as a canvas tent user, more often than not you will be able to repair your SoulPad tent yourself and continue with your trip. Remember, canvas is very forgiving! Any holes left by your needle will soon be filled with the expanding fibres of the canvas when it becomes wet. Have confidence in your repairs!

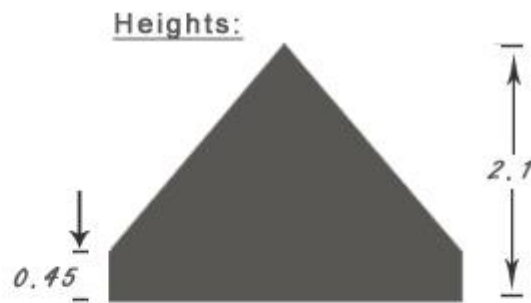
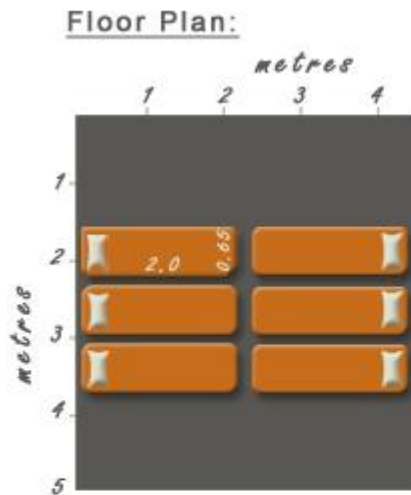
Groundsheets; Circular repairs are advisable on groundsheets in order to reduce the likelihood of the patch becoming loose through footfall and contact. In most instances, the groundsheet can be repaired using a patch of the same material and a good, strong contact adhesive. It is more effective to apply a patch on both sides of the groundsheet.

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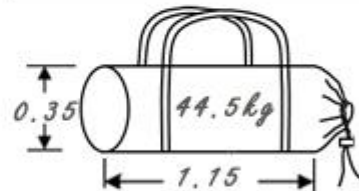
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FLOOR PLAN & DIMENSIONS



Packing Dimensions & Weight:



In accordance with ISO 5912
For touring tent (type T)

Outer Tent Material:

Cotton Canvas 100%

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