

7 Cleaning/ Care Procedures

Troop 17 has spent a great deal of money on equipment and we need help from each scout to properly maintain the equipment. At the end of each campout, Scouts will be assigned certain equipment that must be taken home, cleaned and brought back to the next troop meeting (with the exception of tents / tarps that may need extra time to dry).

7.1 Tarps

Guidelines When Taking Home

- Lay tarp out to dry. After it dries take a stiff broom and sweep all dirt and debris from the tarp.
- If dirt or mud remains on the tarp, you should spray it with water and use a stiff brush to clean off the dirt.
- After the tarp is completely dry and fold (or roll). Tie with one of the guy ropes.



Folded 😊



Rolled 😊



Dirty, unfolded 😞

7.2 Tents

If you have been assigned tents to take home, you must set them up when you get home or hang them up in the garage or basement. Cleaning and drying tents is extremely important to prevent mildew and to increase the usable life of the tents. **Mildew can set into a tent in as little as 24 hours**, so it is important to get even a slight damp tent (like one you would find on a dewy morning) aired out quickly.

One of the easiest ways to damage your tent is by not drying it as quickly as possible after it gets wet. **Storing a wet tent for as little as 24 hours in warm weather is likely to start the process of mildew formation.** Mildew can permanently damage the waterproof coatings by causing them to separate from the fabric, but mild to severe staining is more common. Mildew stains are permanent. They cannot be removed without potential harm to the fabric coatings. Even when your tent appears to be dry after use, it is always best to assure it is completely dry before storing. Hang it outside or pile it loosely in your house for a few days, turning it inside and out to assure it has dried everywhere. Never machine dry your tent as the heat can melt the fabric.

Typical Tent parts

Qty	Item
1	Tent Body
1	Fly
2	Aluminum Poles
As needed	Tent stakes
As needed	Rope Guy Lines

Guidelines When Taking Tents Home

- Dry the tent, fly, bags and ground sheet by hanging outside (or setting tent up in your yard).
- Clean the tent
 - Shake out any debris from the inside of the tent.
 - Sweep out the inside of the tent, if necessary.
 - If there is mud/dirt in/on the tent, clean with a damp cloth.
- Make sure all the pieces are included.
 - Rain Fly
 - Tent Body
 - Tent Bag
 - Guy Lines (check for number of loops on tent)
 - Stakes (check for number of loops on tent)
 - Stake Bag
- Make sure the **poles** are in good shape.
 - Any poles missing or broken?
 - Are poles' shock cords intact? Are they frayed, and need replacement.
- Check for **holes or rips** in the tent and fly. Note location and size of any findings.
- Pack tent
 - Place the guy lines and stakes in the stake bag.
 - Fold the tent in half or thirds, so the width is somewhat less than the length of the tent bag.
 - Fold the fly so it is the same size or smaller than the folded tent.
 - Lay out the tent on the floor. Place the fly on top of the tent.
 - Roll the poles and stake bags inside of the tent and fly and place in the tent bag.
- Report issues
 - Note any problems on a piece of paper or blue painter's tape with your Patrol name and your name. Place the paper/tape in the top of the tent bag, where it is easily visible.
 - Report any missing items or problems to the quartermaster when you return the tents or tarps.
- Turn-in the tent to Quartermaster (be sure that records are updated that you turned it in)



Dry by Hanging



or Dry by setting up



Clean the tent



Inspect for Rips



Check for Broken Poles



Missing Pieces?



Pack Tent



Report issues

7.3 Patrol Boxes

It is the responsibility of each patrol to care for their patrol box; however, the Quartermaster must periodically inspect patrol boxes to ensure that they are clean & complete.

Remember that you cook and eat from items in the patrol box. It is in your best interest to keep it clean! Food-borne illnesses are not something that you want to deal with. Keep your patrol box clean, and you can avoid it.

Guidelines for after an outing

- All towels, washcloths, sponges and gloves should be taken home, cleaned, dried and returned to box
- Note the need for resupply of any consumables (dish soap, food items, paper towels, aluminum foil)

Guidelines When Taking Home

- Empty the patrol box of contents
- Thoroughly clean the inside and outside of the box. Repair or note any damage.
- Use the Patrol Box Inventory to make sure all equipment is present, clean and in good working order.
- Clean any items that patrol box contents that require cleaning (see stove section for cleaning the stoves)
- Repack items in patrol box and lock.
- Report Issues
 - Note any problems or missing equipment on a piece of paper or blue painter's tape with your Patrol name and your name. Place the paper/tape in the top of the patrol box, where it is easily visible.
 - Report any missing items or problems to the quartermaster when you return the equipment.

7.3.1 Stove

- Make sure the following parts are included:
 - Stove
 - Grid
 - Drip tray
 - Propane hose adapter
 - Propane hose
- Clean the stove thoroughly.
 - Use warm water, detergent, a degreasing cleaner such as 409 and scouring pads, as necessary.
 - Clean the grid, as well as the aluminum drip tray. If grease has spilled into the bottom of the stove, remove the drip tray using the wing nut to clean the interior of the stove.
- Report Issues
 - Note any problems with the stove on a piece of paper. Include the paper with the stove when you return it.
 - Report any missing items or problems to the quartermaster when you return the item.

7.4 Coolers and Water Jugs

Coolers and water jugs, no matter what material they are made of, can develop fungus and/or bacterial growth if you do not clean them well. At the least, if you do not properly clean your coolers and water jugs, they will develop a musty odor that is likely to give your water an unpleasant taste. At the worst, a moldy water jug/ cooler can make your whole patrol sick. To keep the jugs and coolers fresh-smelling and sanitary, clean them after every use and before you store them.

The most important thing to remember about these jugs and coolers is that dirt, mold and bacteria inside can mean unsafe drinking water or food, which can make for a very bad outing.

- Wash the inside and outside of the cooler or water jug with warm soapy water.
- Pour the soapy water out and refill it with warm water to rinse out the soap residue--you may need to do this several times. After each time, sniff the cooler/water jug. If it still smells soapy, rinse it again.
- Fill water jug or Cooler half full with cool water, and add a half capful of bleach, and carefully swish around.
CAUTION: Be very careful with the bleach, besides ruining clothes, it is poisonous and can burn your skin and eyes.
- Empty jug/cooler carefully, and rinse several times with
- Use a stiff scrub brush to remove any dirt on the lid or body of the cooler/water jug.
- If necessary, use a cleaning product like 409 on the cooler/water jug tops (NEVER on the inside!) to clean them. Rinse thoroughly.
- Allow items to completely dry, with the lids open/off.
- After completely dry, close lids and return the item to the Quartermaster.

