

DofE expedition kit tips:

TENT TERMINOLOGY

TOP TIPS TO SET UP

Every tent is different, so your tent will have it's own instructions - make sure to look at them.

- 1** Put your groundsheet down in a suitable place where you want your tent.
- 2** Lay out all of the tent components to check everything is there.
- 3** Lay out your tent out flat onto the groundsheet. Make sure the door is in the place you would like it to face.
- 4** Put the tent poles together and lay them flat across the tent.
- 5** Insert the correct tent poles into the right places in the tent.
- 6** Raise the tent. You might need your team mates to help.
- 7** Stake the tent to the ground. A little hammer might help if the ground is rocky or hard.
- 8** Some tents will have an extra rain guard - if yours does, put it on now.

Groundsheet

A lightweight sheet roughly the shape of your tent floor's outline that lays beneath your tent forming a barrier or extra layer between your tent floor and the ground; aiding the tent's durability and your comfort.

Berth

Used to describe how many people a tent can sleep. Note that it is calculated without kit, so we recommend sizing up if you have a lot of kit.

Flysheet/rainfly

The waterproof outer cover which protects you against the wind and rain.

Guylines

Common with all tents, these are essential to keeping your tent stable and upright. They're pegged out at specific points to distribute stress from the poles, especially in windy conditions.

Vestibules

Also known as 'porches', these are areas of the tent which are covered by the flysheet but separate from the main inner tent. Great for storing wet, muddy kit away from sleeping area, or acting as an extended living space when sitting out bad weather.

Tent poles

Poles give a tent structure and form. They come in varying lengths depending on the size and shape of the tent. Usually, they're flexible and will unfold using several sections which clip together lengthwise to make a longer pole. 3 main types: Fibre glass, steel and inflatable.

Ventilation points

A common feature on tents to manage condensation by increasing airflow. Usually panels with a mesh-backing.

Hydrostatic head

A tent's hydrostatic head is an indication of how waterproof it is (measured in mm). The higher the hydrostatic head, the more waterproof the fabric is. Legal UK minimum is 1500mm, so a rating of 2000-3000 will be plenty to cope with the varying British weather.

Doors

Tents come with either a singular or dual-door entry. These doors typically have a fine mesh covering to provide ventilation whilst at the same time keeping unwanted bugs and insects out.



TOP PACKING TIPS

To keep your tent in great condition, follow these tips when it comes to packing up.

- Let your tent air dry in the sun before packing it away.
- Pack each item individually.
- Fold the tent differently each time you put it away.
- Put the stakes and poles in last.
- Air your tent out regularly!

More advice on what to look for in a DofE tent, as well as the official DofE Expedition Kit List, can be found at DofE.org/shopping

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