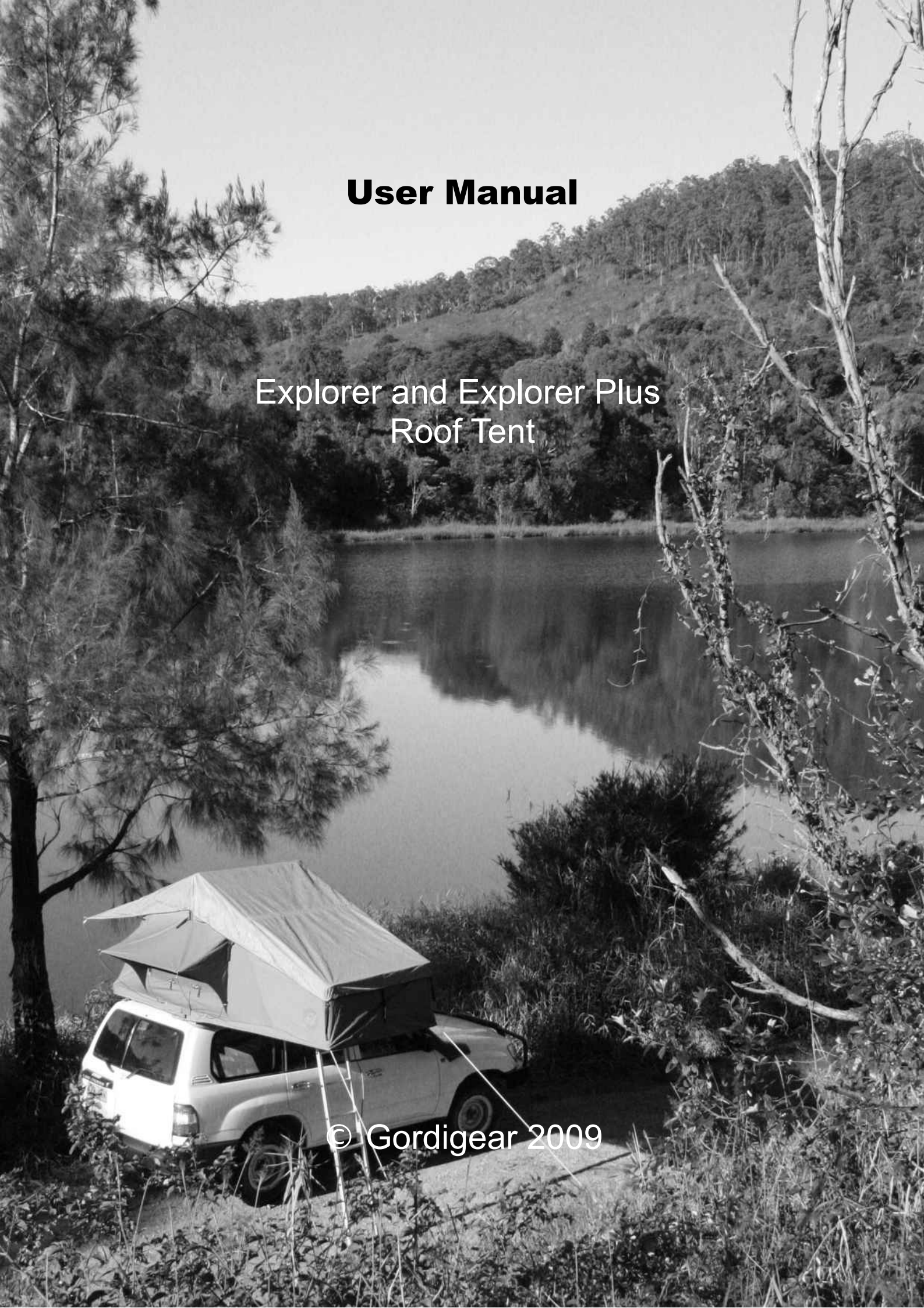


User Manual

Explorer and Explorer Plus Roof Tent

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Thank you very much for buying a Gordigear Roof Top Tent. We and countless satisfied customers worldwide believe that you have exercised excellent judgment in your selection. Our products have been designed to give you many years of comfort and reliability during your adventures. The Gordigear Team tries the utmost to meet the highest expectations by designing and crafting highly functional, flexible and durable products that withstand and support your active lifestyle.

Successful operation and long life depends on proper maintenance and correct operating techniques. We recommend that you carefully read this entire manual before installing and operating the tent. Keep this manual handy for future reference.

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Delivery content

Before you start to fix your tent to your car take a minute and organise all parts provided.

Delivery contains:

	Item:	Where to be found:
	1 x Pre-assembled roof top tent	Transport carton
	1 x Travel cover	Inside the tent
	Mattress protection skirt	Inside the tent
	1 x Ladder	Ladder carton
	2 x Mounting rails	Inside the tent's folding pockets

	<p>Spring steel poles 6 x for Explorer Plus 8 x for Explorer</p>	<p>Inside the tent's folding pockets</p>
	<p>4 x 8mm stainless steel bolt/nut (Attachment of the mounting rails to the tent floor)</p>	<p>Inside the accessory bag</p>
	<p>8 x 8mm stainless steel bolt/nut 8 x Mounting slide plate</p>	<p>Inside the accessory bag</p>
	<p>2 x Ladder hinge incl. bolts/nuts</p>	<p>Inside the accessory bag</p>
	<p>4 x Self-drilling screws (Attach plastic end caps to mounting rails)</p>	<p>Inside the accessory bag</p>
	<p>4 x Mounting base plate</p>	<p>Inside the accessory bag</p>

	4 x Mounting rail end cap	Inside the accessory bag
	4 x Bungee cord	Inside the accessory bag
	1 x Spreader Pole	Enclosed
2 x Pegs (for Explorer Plus only)		Inside the accessory bag
1 x User Manual		Inside the tent
1 x Mattress Protection		Inside the tent
1 x 10mm Spanner		Inside the accessory bag
1 x 13mm Spanner		Inside the accessory bag

Required roof rack/bars

A Gordigear roof tent can be put on pretty much any car, regardless of make and model. It is more a question of whether or not the roof racks/bars are suitable. It is not required to have a 4WD vehicle. Just check that the roof load rating of your vehicle is sufficient (with most cars this is not an issue). We have successfully fitted our tents onto all kinds of sedans, utility vehicles and station wagons. We are yet to try installing one onto a convertible.

All Gordigear roof tents come with a flexible mounting system that adjusts to the distance of your roof racks and gives you the choice of direction you would like the tent to open to. The actual connection between the tent and roof racks is made by sliding mounting plates and bolts. The standard bolts provided cover roof racks of up to 5cm thickness. In case your roof racks exceed this thickness the bolts can be exchanged by standard M8 heavy duty stainless steel bolts with the necessary length to match your roof rack. The mounting plates fit onto racks with a width of up to 7cm, but wider ones are readily available if required. Please take into consideration that this is a sturdy product, so please check the static and dynamic load capacity of your roof rack specifications before mounting the tent.

Prepare your tent for mounting

Your Gordigear Roof top tent comes pre-assembled but needs some easy to handle final steps before it is ready to be mounted to your car.

Hint:

Before you start to assemble your roof top tent, you will need to decide whether you wish to have the tent open to the back or to the side of your vehicle. This will decide the direction and length of the mounting rails.

Advantages of different tent directions:

Off the back:

For most larger size vehicles opening 'off the back' is preferable as it leaves more storage space on the roof and the open tent provides weather protection when accessing the boot of your car.

Off the side:

Opening 'off the side' can be preferable for smaller vehicles. The tent is better balanced on the roof and allows lift-gates to operate without hitting the opened tent.

Step by step assembly instruction:

Hint:

The direction on how the tent opens on your car and the direction of your roof rack/bar will direct the position of the mounting rails.



Adjust the mounting rail length.

In case you need to fix the mounting rails length wise to the tent base you will be required to cut the rails to adjust the length from its original to the required 120cm.

Align the pre-drilled holes of the tent base to the pre-drilled holes within the mounting rails and mark where you need to cut them.



Cut the mounting rails approximately 10cm from each side.

Hint:

It makes the assembly easier if you place the tent slightly opened on its side on a clean surface.



Fix the mounting rails to the tent base:

Use the 4 x 8mm bolts and washer, slide your hand in between the mattress and tent floor and insert the bolts into the pre-drilled holes.



Slide 2 x 8mm nuts into each of the mounting rails and align them with the pre-drilled holes. Place the mounting extrusion into position over the bolts.



The nuts will be locked in place by the inner shape of the mounting rail. Tighten the bolts firmly from inside the tent.



Place the tent flat on the floor with the mounting rails facing downwards before you continue. Open your tent completely and make sure the fly sheet is fixed to the main body by adjustable straps.



Mount the ladder:

Fix the two ladder hinges by the provided 6mm bolts to the pre-drilled holes in the tent frame.



Fix the ladder to the hinge by using the plastic washer between the hinge and the ladder. Do not tighten this bolt too much.

Hint:

Make sure the locking pins of the ladder are in an unlocked position. That means if you slide out the ladder, the locking pins engage automatically once they reach the pre-drilled holes. This will help when pitching the tent.



Fixing the travel cover to the tent:

Prepare the travel cover by finding the side that connects via a sail track to the tent. All other sides are connected by zips.



Slide the side of the travel cover without a zip into the provided sail track at the tent. Unfold the travel cover all the way and cover the tent, zip it to the tent on the remaining 3 sides.



Fixing the protection skirt to the mattress:

This skirt avoids moisture being drawn into the mattress through the canvas during long periods of heavy rain.

Put the skirt around your mattress first.



The mattress protection skirt is fixed by Velcro to the mattress and tent poles.



Close the straps of the tent.



Close the straps and you are ready to fix the tent to your car.

How to fit your tent to your car

To fit your Gordigear tent to your roof rack or roof bars you will need a second person to assist you.

Hint:

Make sure your tent is fully packed with the travel cover in place and the straps fastened before you lift the tent onto your car. You will need at least 2 persons to lift the tent.

Step by step fitting process:



Lift the tent onto your vehicle, make sure it opens towards the desired direction.



Place the 8mm bolt into the slide plate.



Attach the tent to the roof rack on four places (or more).
Slide the mounting slide plates into the mounting rail.
On each point of fixation, one mounting slide plate needs to be on the in and one at the outside of the roof rack.

Hint:

In case you chose to open the tent towards the rear of your car it is worthwhile to mount your tent as far towards the back of your car as possible. It will provide shelter and more space for an optional skirt.



Tighten all the nuts and make sure your tent is securely fixed. The mounting plate should slightly bend around your rack.
It is mandatory to check the tent before, during and after each trip that it is still securely mounted.



Add the end caps and secure them in place with self drilling screws.
This is optional and not recommended if you want to remove your tent after each trip.



The ladder is pre-drilled to fit a tent mounted in approximately 200cm height.



Adjust the length of the ladder.
For higher vehicles:
A ladder extension may be required for higher vehicles.
The overlap of each ladder segment must not be less than 240mm.
Do not drill locking holes BELOW the existing locking pin holes into the Ladder!



For lower vehicles:
A second pair of holes needs to be drilled to enable the ladder to engage at the required height. Use an 8mm drill.
To make sure the holes are centred we recommend to drill a pilot hole using a 3.5mm drill.

How to set up and strike your tent

Our Gordigear roof top tent is designed to provide reliable shelter in an instant, be it for a quick roadside rest or to pitch camp at a remote location over a longer period.

IMPORTANT:

All our products are manufactured to high quality standards. None of our products require force to be set up or dismantled. If in doubt, please contact us and ask. In case you face a problem, please check for obstacles, fouling and foreign objects or too much tension first.

Step by step instruction how to set up your tent:



Choose a beautiful spot to park your car. Make sure the surface is flat and not in the risk of falling branches or flooding. Secure your car by keeping it in first gear or parking AND engage the hand brake.



Avoid uneven or unsafe places.



Release the straps and remove the travel cover from the tent by unzipping all 3 sides.



Release the hold down Velcro straps on each side of the tent.



Remove the travel cover for longer stays or if you want to use the Explorer Plus annex.



Slide out the ladder until the locking pins engage.



The ladder can now be used as a leverage to open the tent.



Rest the ladder on a levelled and firm ground. Make sure both sides of the locking pins are engaged before you enter the tent.



Next step is for the Explorer Plus Roof Tent only:

Extend the covered entrance by taking the U-shaped aluminium frame underneath the mattress,

place it into the upper corners of the veranda

and push the ends into the hinges on each side of the entrance.

Make sure the aluminium frame is in the right position, pull the fly sheet over the edge if necessary and

fix the veranda to the ground if you do not use the annex.



To avoid water or snow pooling you will find an additional spreader poles for your covered entrance.



The spreader poles will be fixed with two C-shaped connectors between the outer and first inner frame section



You will find a small opening that allows you to feed the spreader pole through the tent wall and connect the C clip to the first tent frame.



Connect the other side of this spreader to the pole frame of the covered entrance.

For tents with a width of 165cm or more we are using stronger diameter poles. You will need a bit more force to connect the c clip to the pole.



Close the cable inlet.



Pull down the rain flaps all around the tent.

Hint:

Your tent is now ready for a short stopover or prepared for heavy rainy conditions.



Windows:

Insert the bottom end of the spring steel rods in a slight outward angle into the predrilled holes in the base of the roof tent, passing through the eyelet in the roof tent skirting.



Tension the outside window awning and feed the top end of the spring steel rods into the eyelets of the window cover by bending the rods upwards.



Use 2 rods for each window.



Standard entrance.

Insert the bottom end of the spring steel rods into the holes in the base of the roof tent, passing through the eyelet in the roof tent skirting.



Tension the flysheet of the entrance and feed the top end of the spring steel rods into the eyelets of the flysheet by bending the rods upwards.



Use two rods for the entrance.



Close the entrance during stormy conditions.



Two ropes are fixed on the frame inside the tent to support you climbing into or out of the tent.

Instruction how to strike your tent:



The 4 supplied bungee cords are used to assist in preventing the fabric from billowing while the tent is slowly closed. Clip each of the bungee cords across the tent into the eyes above the side windows before you strike your tent.



Repeat all the above steps when pitching your tent in reverse order to pack away your roof tent.



Make sure the compression straps are closed.



Pull up the rain flaps.



The travel cover fits loosely without too much tension.
For easier handling, fold up the corners before you close the zip.
Make sure no fabric gets stuck in the zip.



Tension the cover straps to avoid ballooning of the travel cover.



Make sure you add the protective caps the rods to avoid damage during transport

Explorer Annex



The annex slides into the sail track around the bottom plate of the tent. Start at each corner and work in both directions. Make sure the annex is all the way within the sail track.



Pull the rain flap over the annex.



Secure the annex to the ladder.



The annex is ready to use after you secured it safely to the ground with pegs.

Explorer Plus Annex



Remove the travel cover.



Place your annex on the floor.
Organise the walls and make sure the back wall points towards the car.
The back wall is the only wall with a sail track tongue and not a zipper.



Feed the back wall of the Annex into the sail track that was occupied by the travel cover.



Open the Roof tent and place the ladder within the walls of the annex.



Make sure the ladder rest on the provided mat to avoid any damage to the floor.



Fix the annex to the tent by closing the zip of the remaining three walls.
A second person is helpful to hold the annex in place and reduce the tension on the zip.



To open the window, feed the spring steel rods through the eyelets and the opening in the annex.
The annex needs to be fixed to the tent first.



Peg down and secure the annex.

Understand how your tent keeps waterproof

Gordigear tents use waterproof and water repellent fabrics of the highest quality. However, with the addition of seams, zips and other desirable features a tent will not be as waterproof as a car, house or other solid structures. The following are common examples of how water can enter a tent and were you as the user needs to be aware of:

Initial seam shrinkage and seam maintenance:

All Gordigear tents are manufactured by expert machinists and all seams are treated and/or heat tape sealed. However canvas contains cotton, and as with every canvas product, we highly recommend to water the tent during hot weather and give it time to dry out before your first trip. Repeat that for at least 3 times.

This procedure will shrink the new seams, water proofs them and prolong the product life of your tent significantly.

In case the weather conditions are not ideal, you plan a trip into cooler regions or as a general advise of maintenance, we recommend to reseal the more vulnerable seams with seam sealer regularly. High tension, wear or tear and cold weather put seams under stress, sealing them as a measure of precaution will prepare you for the unexpected, avoid unnecessary inconvenience and keeps you on top of your adventure.

Vulnerable seams are the ones that connect the tent to the floor, all corners as well as the vertical seams on the sloping side walls.



Use high quality canvas seam sealer and massage it with a little brush (toothbrush or similar) into the seam from both sides. Make sure you use a sufficient amount of sealer to allow the seams to soak. The seam sealer will solidify into a rubber membrane and seals it off.

Rain flaps:

All Gordigear tents use rain-flaps to provide a second layer of protection to especially vulnerable points like zips and floor seams.

Please make sure all rain flaps are used correctly and cover zips and seams. Make sure all flaps are supporting rain water to flow off the tent. Wrong directed flaps act like a gutter and have the opposite effect.

Zips:

All care is taken in the design to cover zips with rain flaps. At times wind driven rain could force water through the zips. To minimise this, make sure all doors are closed correctly and that the flaps cover the zips.

Structural integrity and water pooling:

A perfectly pitching tent on a flat ground is structurally strong and waterproof. During prolonged wind and rain it may be necessary to tighten guy lines and reset tent pegs to prevent the fly from sagging or flapping and attend to drainage around the perimeter of the tent. Sagging and incorrect pitching weakens the tent structure and could allow water to pool in the fly placing unnecessary forces on the tent causing leaking and breakages.

Condensation:

When warm moist air meets cooler air, condensation occurs. The warm moist air condenses on the inside surface of the tent. Condensation can be reduced if the tent is well ventilated.

IMPORTANT:

We recommend you set up the tent at least once before going onto your first trip, so you can verify that all parts are included and you become familiar with the tent. This is also the perfect opportunity to water the canvas and seams

Storage and handling guidelines

What to do with my tent in between trips?

If you are not using your tent, it is advised to remove it from the vehicle. A common approach is to hoist the tent into the ceiling of your garage, carport or shed. It requires the fitting of a harness, but it will make re-installation of the tent a lot easier, too. Another way is to simply lift the tent off manually, which will require at least two persons. Always ensure that the tent and mattress is completely dry if it is stored for longer periods.

Do not store the tent wet. If you do have to pack away when the tent is wet, zip close all canvas doors and windows to protect the inside of the tent. As soon as you can, within a few days, open the tent and let it dry out thoroughly to prevent moisture damage. Open up the tent occasionally to let it vent out.

Can I pack the tent together when it is wet?

You can pack the tent together when wet and reopen it several hours later. If you do so, make sure the tent dries completely when reopening. We advise that you should always ensure that the tent is dry if it is packed up for longer periods of time to prevent mould. Although our tent material is mould resistant, it still might develop mould if stored wet for extended periods.

Do I need to reseal the canvas?

This will very much depend on how much you use the tent. We have customers that have travelled for months on end, using the tent every day and they still find that it is as waterproof as on the day they bought it. However, it is a good idea to reseal if the tent is in frequent use. Only utilise quality protective agent from your local camping/outdoor shop or run a block of beeswax around the seams to revitalise the seam protection.

How should I take care of my Gordigear tent?

Clean with cold water only. A brush can be used if required. Do not use chemicals, soap or detergents. Using a silicon spray on all zips from time to time will extend their life. As with any tent, it is recommended to thoroughly wet the canvas and allow to dry before first usage. Repeat up to three times to ensure sealing of the material.

Mildew:

To avoid mildew, never put your tent away wet or damp. However, if mildew occurs, use a soft bristle brush or sponge to clean. Let the tent dry in the sunlight and re apply seam sealer compound on the inside of the seams.

Repairing a tear:

For small tears, use a self adhesive patch kit. We recommend a canvas or awning repairer for larger tears.

Removing pegs

Pegs should be pulled with another peg, hammer or a peg puller, never by pulling on the tent. Avoid pegging your tent so tight that it stresses the fabric. Overstretching may cause peg loops and fabric to tear.

Floor condensation

A ground sheet underneath the tent prevents the floor from feeling damp and helps prolong its life. The ground sheet should be smaller than the tent's floor to prevent rain from running under the tent.

Fading fabric:

Do not leave your tent set up in direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time as this weakens and fades the fabric.

Faulty zipper

All our tents are manufactured with highest quality zips. However, dust and sand are the main reasons for zip tear and wear. If the zipper separates, you can fix the zipper by moving the slider to the beginning of the zipper tape and reworking the zipper. If separation continuous, open the zip, give the slider a slight squeeze with pliers and rework the zipper.

Good to know

Speed Limit.

To avoid damage to your roof top tent or car and considering general safety, we do not recommended to exceed a speed limit of 100km/h.

Pre Trip Inspection:

Before, during and after each trip, please check that the tent is securely mounted to your roof rack, as well as the roof rack to your car.

Centre of gravity.

The attachment of a roof tent to your vehicle (similar to any other load on your roof rack) will alter its centre of gravity. Adjust your driving accordingly, especially off-road and on deep surfaces like sand or snow.

Overall height.

Be aware that with a roof tent fitted to your vehicle the overall height is increased. You should measure the overall height of your vehicle with the roof tent fitted as you will need this information to decide if the vehicle can enter car parks etc.

Do not drill locking holes below the existing locking pin holes in the ladder.

This will weaken the structure of the ladder and can cause injury. If you need to extend the length of the ladder, please use a ladder extension.

How to set the tent up in different environmental conditions?

In stormy conditions it is advised to find a location with less exposure. Always park into the wind to minimise the amount of tent area that is exposed. Also, don't forget to be mindful of

trees in such conditions. Just in case a branch falls. There are two things to consider when using the tent in colder climates. Always leave a small proportion of the window flaps open to ensure air flow and to counter condensation. Moreover, it is important that the fly sheet provided with the tent is set up as it establishes an insulating air layer, which helps to keep you warm. During hot days and nights, the large window and entrance openings ensure excellent airflow. The fly sheet also plays an important role by creating shade and an insulating air pocket above the tent.

Camp Safe – Safety Habits

The fabric may burn if left in continuous contact with a flame from any source. Also, the application of any foreign substance to the tent fabric may render the flame resistant properties ineffective.

To prevent injury caused by gas poisoning or suffocation

- Do not use fuel burning, oxygen consuming devices inside the tent. This includes candles, gas lanterns, kerosene lamps, stoves, cooking and heating appliances
- Do not use gas appliances of any kind inside the tent.

To prevent injury caused by fire

- Do not pitch the tent near a camp fire or any other flame source
- Do not use candles, matches or any other flame source in or near the tent (this includes stoves, cooking equipment, lighting and heating appliances)
- Only use recommended water repellent compounds on the tent
- Do not spray tent fabrics with insecticides

To prevent injury caused by electricity

- Always exercise care when using electricity and electric lighting in and near tents. Only use 12 volt lighting.

To prevent injury caused by your camping environment

- Do not pitch your tent on an area that could get flooded
- Do not leave your tent erected in strong winds – collapse the tent and seek refuge in your vehicle
- Do not pitch your tent near cliffs in case of collapse or rock fall
- Do not pitch your tent under trees with dead branches or under trees known to drop branches
- Do not pitch your tent near rivers, lakes or the sea known to inhabit crocodiles

Understanding your tent.

- this product is designed as a temporary structure; it is not designed to be a permanent structure or dwelling
- Intermittent use only. Although our fabrics are treated for extra UV resistance, continuous exposure to sun light will break the fabric down. Fading of colour is an early warning sign. These tents are not designed as permanent dwellings or structures.
- Do not leave this product unattended if bad weather is expected. If assembly instructions are followed correctly, this product will withstand winds and rain. In

- gusty winds and storms you must collapse the tent.
- During rain always lower awnings to avoid water pooling on awnings.
- Never store a wet and/or soiled tent, as mildew and corrosion will form within a few days. This condition is not covered by warranty. Always allow tent to dry completely before packing and stowing.
- During strong winds and storm collapse the tent and seek refuge in your vehicle. Damage caused by storms is not covered by warranty.
- We recommend that you discuss adding this investment to your household Insurance Policy with your Insurance Agent.

Warranty and contact details:

Please check our web page for detailed warranty information:

<http://www.gordigear.com/warranty/warranty.php?l=en>

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