

Ground Humidity & Floor protection

How Tent Condensation Occurs:

Although the ground under a tent generally stays dry during rain storms, protected by the tent, there is still humidity rising from the ground (or snow). Some of that humidity will condense on the underside of the floor, while much of it goes right through the floor coating. Any object that covers the floor will block further travel of the humidity and cause condensation. In places where the floor isn't covered, the humidity will continue to travel upwards and greatly add to the humidity in the air within your tent. A proper ventilation system will eliminate the build-up of condensation to prevent condensation on interior tent walls. The typical reaction to finding the bottom of your sleeping bag and pack wet is to assume that the floor leaked. Any time moisture is found under objects on the floor and dry on uncovered floor areas, it is due to condensation, not floor leakage. Using a Warmlite® tent footprint under the tent will block all ground humidity, as well as protect floor from ground damage which can result in necessary replacement of tent floor.

Leaks and Sealing:

The seam-sealant supplied with tent will stick to clean new or old fabric, but will not stick to wet or dirty fabric. Note that an older tent may appear clean while still having a film of oils, dirt, etc. which can damage the coating and make a recoat/sealant peel off, or make coating turn sticky or leaky.

The most common place for tents to leak is the seams along poles and at pole ends. Seal these seams inside and out, vigorously brushing sealant into the seam. Also seal the seam between end cone and inner wall from inside the tent, and double seal inside on floor at pole ends. (See Anatomy of a Tent diagram at warmlite.com) Where zippers are sewn on, seal the seam on fabric side, not along zipper tape which absorbs sealant and stiffens zipper tape without sealing the seam. When all sealing is done and dry, spray zippers with water repellent.

Leaks are generally difficult to find. An easy rule of thumb to differentiate between a leak and condensation is, if water appears on the floor during rain but no one was in the tent during the rainfall, it is most likely a leak. If water appears when it isn't raining, then it is condensation.

Never test the tents waterproofing with a hose! Cold water hitting the fabric will cause instant condensation, which will be knocked from wall during continued water impact, making it appear as though water is spraying through. You can test with a hose only if the water temperature from the hose is higher than the air temperature.

Contact for More Assistance:

Don't hesitate to contact us about ordering more silicon for resealing aged tents, questions about repairs, or other services. We strongly suggest against using products other than what Warmlite® provides to ensure compatibility with fabrics and other materials. As other brands or materials may not stick, seal, last or may damage fabrics.

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