

Care of Warmlite® Tent Poles

The poles supplied with Warmlite® tents are made of the highest strength Aluminum alloy. They are pre-curved to match the tent so all of their strength is available to resist wind loads. Unlike straight poles that use up most of their strength being flexed to shape, a fully taunt and tensioned tent should survive perpendicular winds of up to 90 mph. With the diagonal internal stabilizers our tents should survive parallel winds of up to 150 mph. While Warmlite® poles are stronger and stiffer than other backpacking and mountaineering tent poles, it is still possible for them to be damaged. High strength aluminum is corrosion and notch sensitive.

- Do not store when wet.
- Annually clean and wax poles with a good silicone containing auto wax.
- It is critical that stakes are well placed and adequate to hold the load. Check out Warmlite.com for the best stakes to use with Warmlite® tents. Normally, only 3 stakes are required for 2R tents and 4 stakes for 3R and 5R tents, more are needed only in extreme conditions. Optional: If inside diagonal stabilizers are used, the 2 upwind pole end loops must also be staked.
- If a tent pole section becomes damaged and a replacement section is needed, be sure to identify which section is broken. Middle sections of front poles are uniformly curved, while the end sections have straighter ends towards the pole ends (which are different on each end). Rear pole sections on 2R tents are mostly the same. Don't interchange sections on front poles. Moving end sections into the middle flattens the pole, leaving the tent slack on top and tight on the sides.

Field Pole Repair

- Fiber reinforced strapping tape wrapped around a damaged pole can sustain a tent until a replacement section can be ordered.
- Denting and cracking of poles is extremely rare, but if it happens the smallest dent can progress and break the pole. Such breaks are generally quite smooth with little distortion. If a dent, notch, nick, or deformity develops on a pole joint, file, grind, or sand the deformity out, leaving a smooth, rounded edge. If poles are dropped on sharp rocks, or objects drop onto the poles, carefully examine poles for any dents that may start a crack. Note: there may be small smooth dents caused during the solution heat treatment, which have no effect on strength or integrity.

High Wind Tent Pole Protection

- An upwind wind barrier of stone or snow blocks can cause severe buffeting and downward winds, increasing loads over those normally expected. Conversely, a wall downwind has a calming effect, reducing loads on the tent.
- On snow, the best protection comes from digging the tent platform down below the surface, piling the excavated snow into gentle mounds on each side.

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