

FERN CANYON 4/6

PITCHING INSTRUCTIONS



Congratulations on the purchase of your new Sierra Designs tent! In order to familiarize yourself with your new tent, we recommend you “test pitch” it before embarking on your wilderness adventure.

PACKAGE INCLUDES: Tent Body, Rain Fly, 3 Poles, Guy Cords, Stakes, Storage Bag, and Pole Bag.

STEP 1: Find an even piece of ground; be sure the area is clear of debris. Lay out your tent as shown. Stake the 4 corners.



STEP 2: Assemble the long X poles. Thread the poles through the pole sleeves and yellow loop, then locate the grommets at the corner of the tent and insert poles. Use tent hooks to finish assembly.



STEP 3: Thread the shorter ridge pole through the pole sleeve above the door, and put pole tip into grommet.



STEP 4: Attach buckles for rainfly at back of tent. Bring rainfly over the back of the tent, towards the front door.



STEP 5: Attach rainfly buckles on the front of the tent, and hook the hook/loop underneath the ridge pole.



STEP 6: On the UNDER side of the fly, attach hook and loop sections around poles. These will be found on all 4 corners of the rainfly. Congrats, you are fully set up!



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USING YOUR TENT



GUYING OUT YOUR TENT: Your tent includes guy out loops, guylines, and stakes. It is good practice to always guy out your tent, but is absolutely necessary when it's windy.

Guy out your tent in the locations shown below to prevent pole rotation/breakage during high winds. There are locations on the back of the tent as well.



Gear Loft: There is an included gear loft with your tent for additional storage. Place the hooks through the loops on the roof of the tent.



FLY VENTING: To increase ventilation in your tent, prop the vent in the "open" position. The vent can be found on the back of the rainfly.



SIERRA DESIGNS TENT USER MANUAL



CARBON MONOXIDE GAS WILL KILL YOU

Stoves, heaters, grills, lanterns, candles, and other fuel-burning devices that burn propane, natural gas, charcoal, kerosene, coal, or other fuels produce a toxic gas called carbon monoxide. Because carbon monoxide gas is invisible, odorless, and colorless, a dangerous level of carbon monoxide gas can accumulate in a tent which cannot be detected by sight, smell, or taste. For these reasons:

- DO NOT use matches, lighters, stoves, heaters, grills, lanterns, candles, cooking equipment, or other fuel-burning devices inside or near a tent
- DO NOT build fires inside or near a tent
- DO NOT leave campfires unattended

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

- DO NOT leave children unattended inside a tent or in camp
- DO NOT allow children to assemble a tent
- DO NOT allow children to enter or exit a tent except through the door
- DO NOT allow children to remain in a closed-up tent on hot days

Your failure to follow these warnings will cause death, serious injury, or permanent disability to you or others.

COPING WITH THE UNEXPECTED

Even though Sierra Designs uses only the best quality materials, accidents and normal wear and tear do take their toll on your tent.

POLES

Before pitching your tent, be sure all sections of your poles are fully engaged at their joints. Gaps at section joints will expose the pole inserts to forces for which they were not intended. This can cause them to bend or break. Tent pole inserts are sufficiently strong for their function, but only when they are fully joined and connected with their mating tube sections. While assembling or folding your poles, be sure not to allow pole sections to snap against one another as their impact can cause denting of the tube ends and stress fractures. Try to avoid stepping on or striking your poles on rocks during setup. Since pole damage most frequently occurs during pitching or when horseplay occurs around the tent, be sure not to bend your poles into tighter curves than they naturally assume in the tent – take extra caution in high wind situations. Excessive bending or distortion of the poles can occur in a free-standing tent if it is picked up by only one of its poles while moving the tent. Move a free-standing tent by grasping it at the pole intersections. A slightly bent pole does not lose its strength and does not require replacement unless it distorts the shape of the tent. Proper care of poles includes keeping them clean and free of dirt and salt. Always rinse poles with fresh water if exposed to salt water or after coastal camping. Occasional lubrication of the section joints with silicone spray will help the joints slide together freely and will ward off ice-forming problems in snow.

SHOCKCORD

Your Sierra Designs poles are assembled with extreme weather shockcord – the only shockcord created especially to withstand the rigors of serious backpacking/mountaineering use. Keeping your poles in a fully, or even a partially extended position during long-term storage will relieve the tension on the elastic cord and help to insure maximum performance and reliability. When folding your poles, be sure to fold from the center out so as not to place uneven tension on the elastic cord. Occasionally the shockcord in your poles may break, pull out of the pole, or just go limp. This is not a disaster, the pole is still perfectly functional, the tension on the pole when it is set in place on the tent will keep it together. Finish your trip and return the pole to the Sierra Designs Warranty Department at your leisure for repair.

ZIPPERS

Always be gentle when opening zippers, avoid standing on them and try to limit exposing them to dirt and grit. Taking these precautions combined with frequent cleaning will protect them against premature failure.

TEARS AND DAMAGE

Despite your best efforts, sometimes damage does occur to your tent. Waterproof self-adhesive repair tape is sold at many outdoor stores and several pieces can be tucked into the tent bag without adding any appreciable weight. Urethane-based seam sealing products can be used to plug small holes on polyurethane-coated fabrics. Silicone-based seam sealing products can be used to plug small holes on silicone-coated fabrics. Duct tape also works well for minor field repair. It is a good idea to carry one or a combination of these things with your tent in the event the tent is damaged while in use.

CONDENSATION

Condensation is the build-up of moisture on the inside of your rainfly and tent walls due to a temperature difference between the inside and outside of your tent. Condensation occurs mostly when the conditions are cold, rainy, or humid, although it can occur at any time. The best way to minimize condensation is to increase the ventilation within your tent and between the tent body and fly. Completely guying out the rainfly often helps, as does leaving the door window or vestibule door open as much as possible. We recommend carrying a small micro fiber towel to wipe condensation away as necessary.



KEEP ALL FLAME AND HEAT SOURCES AWAY FROM THIS TENT FABRIC

This tent is made with flame resistant fabric which meets CPAI-84 specifications. **IT IS NOT FIREPROOF.** The fabric will burn if left in continuous contact with any flame source. The application of any foreign substance to the tent fabric may render the flame-resistant properties ineffective.

Your failure to follow these warnings could cause death, serious injury, or permanent disability to you or others.

REFER TO ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY INFORMATION

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TENT

WEATHERPROOFING YOUR TENT

You have just purchased a tent that is factory seam sealed and therefore requires no additional sealing. (Note: If you purchased an Elite tent it is NOT seam sealed) While seam tape significantly increases the weatherproofness of your tent, additional seam sealing will improve the performance of your tent in rainy conditions. For additional weatherproofness, seal all places where attachments are sewn to the fly, including webbing, Velcro, snaps, guy-outs, and zipper tracks. The best way to seal your tent is to use a urethane-based seam sealer for polyurethane-coated fabrics or a silicone-based seam sealer for silicone-coated fabrics. Run a thin bead around the base of the attachment, where it is sewn to the fly. Do this to attachments both on the inside and the outside of the tent.

CARING FOR YOUR TENT ON THE TRAIL

It is important to select a site which has been cleared of any sharp objects such as rocks or sticks. Many people prefer to use footprints under the tent for additional protection. If you choose to do so, make sure the floor of the tent completely covers the footprint, or else the sheet will collect rain. Tent footprints are available for select Sierra Designs tents on our website.

STAKING AND GUYING OUT YOUR TENT

Most Sierra Designs tents are free-standing, not requiring the use of stakes in order to pitch the tent. This is a matter of convenience, allowing quick set-up and easy moving and cleaning of the tent. All tents, free-standing or not, must be staked out properly in order to achieve full structural integrity and prevent wind damage. No lightweight, back-packing style tent, whether rated at 3-season or 4-season, is capable of withstanding strong wind gusts without damage unless anchored and guyed properly. Guying out your tent can increase rain protection and ventilation and greatly enhance strength and wind resistance.

FIRE

Your tent is constructed of flame-retardant materials (with the exception of our Elite tent models that do not have flame-retardant materials), however these materials will melt if exposed to sufficient heat or open flame. Use prudence in positioning your tent near campfires, stoves, barbecues, etc. Caution: Sierra Designs is absolutely against cooking inside a tent. Asphyxiation, severe or even fatal burns are possible if a stove is used in a tent or vestibule without adequate ventilation. Additionally, a hot stove can melt through your tent floor if the stove is not rigorously insulated; and pots of hot liquid, if left uncovered, may create a condensation in the tent.

ULTRAVIOLET (UV) LIGHT

UV light is one of the most damaging of all the elements. When exposed to prolonged and extensive sunlight most fabrics will fade, lose strength, and eventually break down. Try to minimize exposing your tent to the sun. Store it during the day or pitch it in shady areas.

ANIMAL HAZARDS

Animal damage to tents is all too common, but is usually easily avoidable: Never store food in your tent!

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE TRIP IS OVER

It is important to dry your tent completely before returning it to its stuff sack. If stored wet, mildew will likely occur. Mildew damage is not covered under warranty. Hand wash your tent with a mild soap and a sponge. Do not use harsh detergents, chemicals, or abrasive materials. Dirt particles left in the weave of the material speed up the deterioration of the fabric. Clean tents last longer. Never machine-wash your tent! Over extended periods, store your tent loosely, out of the bag in a cool, dry environment.

SIERRA DESIGNS WARRANTY AND REPAIR SERVICE

We maintain a full repair facility to assist you with any problems you may have with any Sierra Designs product. We offer a limited lifetime warranty against defects in materials and workmanship, and for a nominal charge we will repair damage due to accidents or normal wear and tear. This warranty does not cover damages caused by improper care, accidents, or the natural breakdown of materials over extended use and time. State law requires all items returned for repair must be clean. Sierra Designs does not wash tents! Dirty tents will be returned to sender for cleaning. You may contact the Warranty and Repair Department with comments or questions online at <http://www.sierradesigns.com/support/parts-warranty-info> or by calling 800-736-8592 during regular business hours.



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