



# Care and Instructions Canopy/Gazebo



## Welcome to your Life Under Canvas

Thank you for buying a Life Under Canvas Gazebo/Canopy.

The canopy is easy to erect but it does require 2 people.

The canopy is intended for regular leisure use and is classified as a Touring Tent/Canopy. It is intended for use in temperate climates for short bursts of camping. It is not intended as a permanent shelter and the longevity of the canopy will be compromised if used in this way.

Always erect the canopy according to our guidelines, failure to do so may also affect the longevity of it.

Please read the instructions carefully and keep them safe. If you do lose them they are also available to download from our website. [www.lifeundercanvas.co.uk](http://www.lifeundercanvas.co.uk).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on the number or email below. We are always on hand for friendly advice and support.

We hope you enjoy your Life Under Canvas.

Thank you

Emma, Eileen and The Team at Life HQ



## Choosing the perfect pitch

Consider the following:

### **A flat pitch**

There's nothing worse than sliding along the floor of your tent and an uneven surface will also compromise the pegs, guys and shape of the canopy.

### **Natural shelter**

Trees and hedges can be used as barriers against wind and rain, pitch close but not under them.

### **Trees and woodlands**

Avoid pitching under a tree as debris of all kinds may fall onto your canopy and damage it. From tree twigs and berries to bird poo and branches there are all sorts of hazards to be avoided.

Pitching under trees and away from the sunlight can also mean your canopy takes longer to dry out after a damp night or downfall encouraging mould and mildew to form more easily.

### **Door opening**

Ideally the door should face away from the prevailing wind. The wind will then blow over your canopy and not into it.

### **Groundwater flow**

Rain water has to go somewhere, make sure it's not under or around your canopy. Choose the driest spot you can find and nowhere that's boggy.



## What's included with your canopy

Description	Small	Large
Carry Bag	1	1
Canopy	1	1
Canopy back	1	1
Canopy 1/2 front	1	1
Curved poles	3	4
Pole legs	12	16
Straight floor pegs	14	18
Grooved guy pegs	14	18
200cm Guy Rope	10	10
400cm Guy Rope	6	8



## Putting up your Life Under Canvas Canopy

**This canopy is free standing and it's useful to have a friend to help or ask a friendly fellow camper to assist you!**

Carefully unfold your canopy and lay flat on the ground. Zip in the canopy wall if it not already in place.

Tie the 10 shorter guy ropes onto a tag each on the ends (shorter sides) of the canopy.



Tie the 8 longer guy ropes to the tags on the long sides of the canopy.

Push the poles with curved ends into the sleeves in the canopy. There are 4 of these and 16 leg sections.

Concentrate on one pole at a time. Add the legs to the curved poles, starting with the short end and working along. Make sure each leg is the same height to ensure a tight fit of the canvas and a good shape.

Stand up the poles at the short end of the canopy and hold them tight. Ask your friend to peg out the floor tags using the straight pegs.

Then loosely peg out the guys at this end using the grooved pegs.

Move onto the next pole and stand it up, then the following pole and stand it up and so on.



Finally stand up the 4th pole and while you hold it your friend can peg the tags into the ground again using the straight pegs.

Loosely peg out the guys at the other end of the canopy.

To finish the erection, loosely peg out all the long guys on each long side of the canopy. Then systematically move around the canopy tightening the guys to pull the canopy taught and into an equal shape. Ensure the poles are straight and the guys line up with seams and are straight too.

The half front section can be zipped on and pegged down as required once the canopy is up.





## **Packing up and putting away**

Unhook all of the guy ropes and pull the sliders to the end of the guy rope, then wrap up and tie them up neatly to avoid them getting tangled.

Pull out all of the guy pegs, remove any dirt and store safely in the peg bag.

Fold the canopy in half, brush off any mud and allow to dry for 10 to 15 mins while you pack up your other belongings. Turn over and repeat the cleaning and drying process.

Roll the canopy up carefully sweeping off any mud and dirt as you roll. You must ensure that it is the width of the bag when folded.

Fasten the canopy in place with the ties and place into the bag. Make sure the poles and pegs are stored in their bags too. Do not put them in loose with the canopy as they may damage the canvas.



## Storing your Life Under Canvas canopy

You **must** ensure that your Life Under Canvas canopy is completely dry before you put it away. If you need to leave your campsite and it is damp please ensure that you put it up again to dry out within 24 hours.

The canopy needs air to circulate round it to dry completely and the only way to ensure this is the case is to pitch it. Failure to do so could result in mould and mildew forming and this is very difficult to remove.

Do not hang your canopy to dry as mould and mildew could still form in folds and creases.

Store in a dry place away from damp, ideally at room temperature.

Keep safe from rodents and insects.

Do not store anything on top of your canopy.

Pitch your canopy at least once a year in order to check it and to help keep its shape.





## Fire Precautions

It is recommended that you have a small fire extinguisher and a carbon monoxide alarm nearby to ensure your safety at all times.

**This canopy can burn, please observe the following safety rules.**

**Do not smoke in the canopy.**

**Do not use naked flames for cooking.**

**Do not place cooking equipment or heating devices near the canopy walls.**

**Use cooking and heating equipment according to manufacturers instructions.**

**Keep all exits clear of belongings.**

**Know the safety procedures for the site.**

For additional information about your Life Under Canvas canopy plus troubleshooting and repairs advice please see the additional info on our website at [lifeundercanvas.co.uk](http://lifeundercanvas.co.uk)

## Weathering your canopy

Some new cotton canvas tents and canopies will drip or leak slightly for their first few uses even when they have undergone a water repellent treatment.

As the canvas wets and dries out the fibres swell sealing it against future downpours.

This is completely normal and an inherent quality of the 100% cotton canvas fabric used in the manufacture of bell tents, canopies and awnings.

Please be patient with your canopy. Allow it to get wet and dry out a few times. You could even speed up this process by pitching your canopy in the garden and misting it with a light spray from a hose pipe.

Water may collect around the seams and labels but again this is completely normal and will cease with a few weatherings.



## Troubleshooting

If you care for your Life Under Canvas canopy well then it will last for years and years. Of course packing up and putting away, plus the storage are important and should be carried out properly but there are other elements to take into consideration too.

**Pegs** - Make sure they are securely fixed into the ground to keep the canopy in place. It's worth checking them regularly while your tent is pitched. Knock them back in if they have become loose.

**Poles** - The guy ropes should be taut at all times to ensure that the pole is straight and secure. Again it is worth checking these regularly while your canopy is pitched.

**Sliders** - The sliders will need altering depending on the weather conditions. In wet weather the canvas will loosen so the sliders will need tightening. Conversely the sliders will need releasing in drier weather. Pay attention to the weather conditions and the shape of your canopy so that you will know when to tension the guys.

**Inside the canopy** - Do not hang anything from the inside of the canopy as this will strain the canvas. Also make sure that you do not leave any of your belongings touching the canvas as this will cause them to get damp if it rains.

**Never leave your canopy unattended for long periods of time** - Be on hand to regularly check your canopy. If you're camping and popping out for the day then run a quick check before you leave. If you will be away from your canopy overnight ask someone to check it for you. In order for the canopy to stay waterproof and not suffer from any damage it must keep its shape, pegs be banged in securely and guy ropes tight.

**Snow** - Life Under Canvas bell tents and canopies are not intended for use in snow. If it happens to snow when the tent is pitched please clear the snow from it regularly, take it down as soon as possible and dry it out thoroughly afterwards.

**Zips** - The zips on your canopy can become strained if it is not pitched properly or if it is particularly windy. Take care with zips at all times. Do not force them open or closed, if it's not easy to move them adjust the tension on the guys before trying again. It's a good idea to regularly lubricate the zips to keep them in good working order.

**Debris** - Ensure that any debris is cleaned from your canopy immediately to prolong the life of it. This includes bird droppings, water, salt, sand, cooking spills or splashes, mud, grass etc.



**Mildew** - Mildew is a common problem but is easily preventable. It is usually caused by excess moisture in the canvas so you should always ensure that your canopy is completely dry when put away. It is also a sign that your canopy may need re-proofing (see below). Mildew can also arise when the canopy is pitched if the climate is particularly humid. If this does occur clean the mildew off immediately using a specialist canvas cleaning product and then re-proof the cleaned areas.

**UV Damage** - UV light can cause fading of your canopy. If it becomes very pale (in contrast to the bag it came in) it may need re-proofing. UV damage can cause a reduction in the effectiveness of the natural waterproofing qualities of the fabric and the anti fungal protection.

**Cleaning** - You should check the condition of your Life Under Canvas canopy regularly and clean more frequently if it has been used many times. It needs to be cleaned with a specialist cleaning product and then re-proofed afterwards. If it is left too long before being cleaned mildew and fungus can spread over the tent and then be difficult or impossible to remove.

**Re-proofing** - You will know that it is time to reproof your Life Under Canvas canopy when you notice that the fabric no longer beads the water after a downpour, but absorbs some of the moisture into the canvas and takes longer to dry out.

**Repairs** - Of course accidents do happen and you should repair your canopy as quickly as possible should any problems occur. Canvas tears can be repaired by sewing with a traditional needle and thread and holes with patching. Groundsheets can also be repaired with tape and patching designed with the material in mind.

Please see our website for recommendations of cleaning and re-proofing products.

For more serious repairs please contact us and we can recommend a number of companies that will take delivery of your tent and repair it for you.



## **Warranty**

Please see our website for warranty details.

## **Returns & Faulty Goods**

Please see our website for details of how to return your tent or if your tent is faulty.