



# Care and Instructions Awnings



## Welcome to your Life Under Canvas

Thank you for buying a Life Under Canvas Awning.

Our awnings are easy to erect and although it's quicker with 2 people, it's also easy to put one up on your own.

Our awnings are intended for regular leisure use and are classified as a Touring Tent Canopy. They are intended for use in temperate climates for short bursts of camping. They are not intended as permanent shelters and the longevity of the awning will be compromised if used in this way.

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

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

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 tent.

### **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 tent 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 tent 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 Bell Tent and not through it.

### **Groundwater flow**

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



## Putting up your Life Under Canvas Awning

### Attaching an AW360 or AW400 to a Bell Tent

Carefully unfold your awning.

Tie the 8 shorter guy ropes onto each tag on the awning keeping the long guy rope to one side.

Put the central eyelet over the spike on your bell tent door pole and replace the plastic rain cap.

Put the single pole provided in the eyelet at the opposite end of the awning and hold taught. A friend is useful at this stage!

Tie a loop in the end of the longer guy and hook onto the top of the end pole. The slider needs to be at the end that will be pegged into the ground.

Peg into the ground and tighten slider.

Peg all other guys into the ground beginning with the one each side closest to the bell tent and move forward pegging out the guys ensuring the awning is taught.

Finally re tighten the guy from the end pole and check the pole is straight.





### Attaching to a Bell Tent with lifted side (AW400+ only).

Carefully unfold your awning.

Tie 4 of the shorter guy ropes onto each tag on **one side** of the awning keeping the long guy ropes to one side.

Put the central eyelet of the awning over the spike on your bell tent door pole and replace the plastic rain cap.

Put the fixed length single pole provided with the awning in the eyelet at the other end of the awning and hold taught. A friend is useful at this stage!

Tie a loop in the end of one of the longer guys and hook onto the top of the end pole. The slider needs to be at the end that will be pegged into the ground.

Peg into the ground and tighten slider.

Peg the other guys along the one side into the ground beginning with the one closest to the bell tent and move forward.

Put your additional extendable poles into the eyelets on the 2 remaining corners of the awning and lift. You can adjust the height as necessary with the extendable poles.

Tie a loop in the end of the longer guys provided with the extra poles and hook onto the top of the poles. The slider needs to be at the end that will be pegged into the ground.





Peg these guys into the ground too.

Finally re tighten all the guys and check the poles are straight.





**A Free standing awning. You will need 1 additional pole to erect your awning without a Bell Tent if you have a AW360 or AW400. The AW400+ comes with 2 extra poles.**

Carefully unfold your awning.

Tie 8 shorter guy ropes onto each tag on the awning keeping the long guy rope to one side.

Put the one single pole provided in the eyelet at one end of the awning and the additional pole in the other end eyelet. You may need an extra pair of hands to hold one end pole while you peg the other out.

Tie a loop in the end of the longer guy provided with the awning and the guy provided with the extra pole and hook onto the top of each pole. The sliders need to be at the end that will be pegged into the ground.





Peg into the ground and tighten the sliders.

Peg all other guys into the ground beginning at one end and moving forward ensuring the awning is taught.

Repeat and tighten guys as necessary.







**A Free standing awning with lifted side. AW400+ only and you will need 1 additional pole to erect your awning without a Bell Tent**

Carefully unfold your awning.

Tie 4 of the shorter guy ropes onto each tag on **one side** of the awning keeping the long guy ropes to one side.

Put the one single pole provided in the eyelet at one end of the awning and one additional pole in the other end eyelet. You may need an extra pair of hands to hold one pole and keep it taught while you peg the other out.



Tie a loop in the end of the longer guys and hook onto the top of each pole. The slider needs to be at the end that will be pegged into the ground.

Peg into the ground and tighten slider. Peg the other guys along the one side into the ground.

Put your additional poles into the eyelets on the 2 remaining corners of the awning and lift.

Tie a loop in the end of the longer guys provided with the 2 extra poles and hook onto the top of the poles. The slider needs to be at the end that will be pegged into the ground.

Peg these guys into the ground too.



Finally re tighten all the guys and check the poles are straight.





### Star Awning - Free Standing

Carefully unfold your awning.

Tie the 4 guy ropes onto each canvas tag on each of the 4 points of the star.

Ask a friend to help while you insert the pole into the hat and hoist up the canvas. 2 poles are provided so that you can adjust the height of the awning.

Peg each guy rope out from each corner of the star loosely. Tighten opposite points to achieve an equal balanced shape.





## Packing up and putting away

You must ensure that your Life Under Canvas awning 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 awning needs air to circulate round it to dry completely and the only way to ensure this is the case is to erect it.

If you put your awning away even slightly damp it may develop mould patches which are very difficult to remove.

Remove the cap on the A frame over the door (if the awning is attached to your tent) and put away safely.

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 awning 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 awning up carefully sweeping off any mud and dirt as you roll.

Fasten the awning 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 tent as they may damage the canvas.



## Storing your Life Under Canvas awning

You **must** ensure that your Life Under Canvas awning 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 awning 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 awning 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 awning.

Pitch your awning 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 awning can burn, please observe the following safety rules.**

**Do not smoke in the awning.**

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

**Do not place cooking equipment or heating devices near the awning 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 awning plus troubleshooting and repairs advice please see the additional info on our website at <http://lifeundercanvas.co.uk>

## Weathering you bell tent or awning

Some new cotton canvas tents and awnings 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 and awnings.

Please be patient with your awning. Allow it to get wet and dry out a few times. You could even speed up this process by pitching your tent 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 awning 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 tent in place. It's worth checking them regularly while your awning 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 awning is pitched.

**Sliders** - The sliders will need altering depending on the weather conditions. In wet weather the awning 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 awning so that you will know when to tension the guys.

**Inside the awning** - Do not hang anything from the awning 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 awning unattended for long periods of time** - Be on hand to regularly check your awning. 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 awning overnight ask someone to check it for you. In order for the awning 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 awnings are not intended for use in snow. If it happens to snow when the awning is pitched please clear the snow from it regularly, take it down as soon as possible and dry it out thoroughly afterwards.

**Debris** - Ensure that any debris is cleaned from your awning 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 awning is completely dry when put away. It is also a sign that your awning may need re-proofing (see below). Mildew can also arise when the awning 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 awning. If it becomes very pale (in contrast to the bag) 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 awning 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 awning and then be difficult or impossible to remove.

**Re-proofing** - You will know that it is time to reproof your Life Under Canvas bell tent or awning 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 tent 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.