



TIPI SET UP INSTRUCTIONS

9' - 24' SIZE

Thank you for choosing Reliable Tent and Tipi! You have purchased the most authentic, best-constructed tipi on the market. Before getting started, take a few moments, and read this booklet completely!!

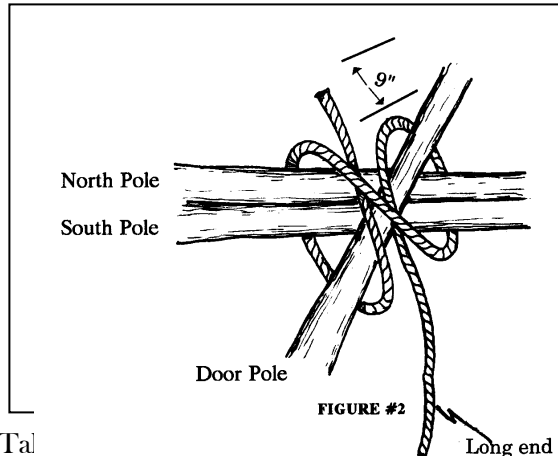
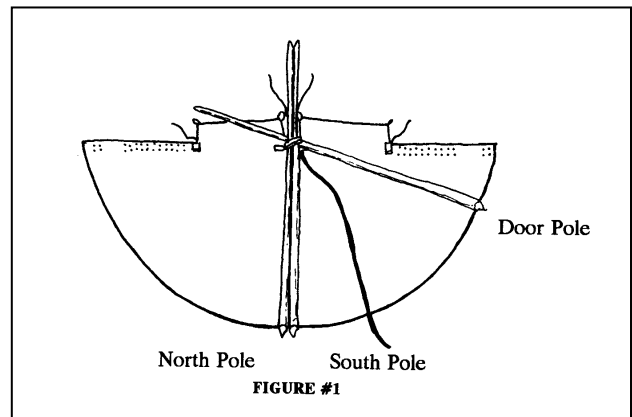
Setting up your tipi will be one of the most interesting and exciting experiences you've ever had. Although it looks complicated, it is really very simple, plus you've got these explicit instructions and diagrams. It should take you a couple of hours the first time and after that, less time will be needed.

STEP 1

Before doing anything with the poles, it is a good idea to wipe them all down with a damp cloth or brush to get rid of dirt and dust caused by shipping. Also, sand off any major splinters or rough spots on the poles.

- Select the three straightest and strongest poles and lay them on top of the cover as shown in Figure #1. Note: The Door Pole should be on top of the North and South Poles. The bottom of each pole should extend to the outer edge of the canvas.

Figure #2



STEP 2

Next, take 3/8" rope included with your tipi (you can find it in your stake bag) and tie the tripod poles together with a clove hitch as shown in Figure #2. Tie the poles together at the crotch of the tipi cover as shown in Figure 1. Mark this location on the poles so the next time you put up your tipi you will not have to measure.

Watch this hitch closely as tripod is pulled up!! Make sure it does not slip. Caution: Do not tie too tightly or your poles could break during setup.

STEP 3

Take the poles four (4) times directly below the clove hitch. Firmly but not extremely tight. Tie off the short end of the clove hitch to your rope with two half-hitches.

It is easiest to position the bottom of the Door Pole where you want the door and the bottom of the North and South Poles approximately where the South Pole should be.

Now have one person pull on the rope as another person lifts the tripod up. (Figure #3)

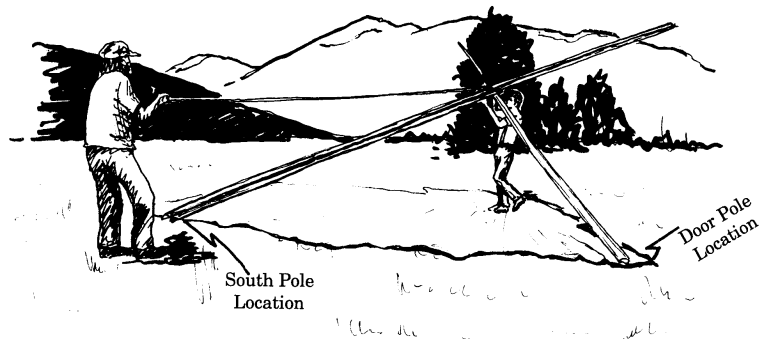


FIGURE #3

As soon as you've got it straight up, move North pole apart to form the tripod. (Figure #4)

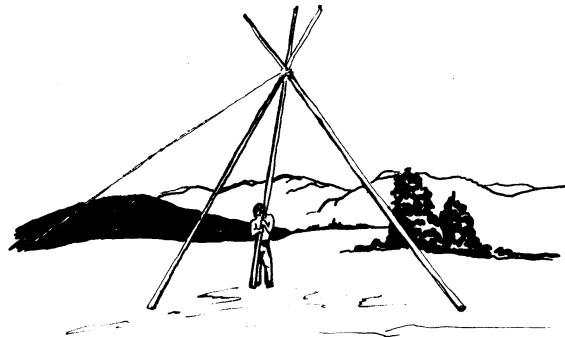
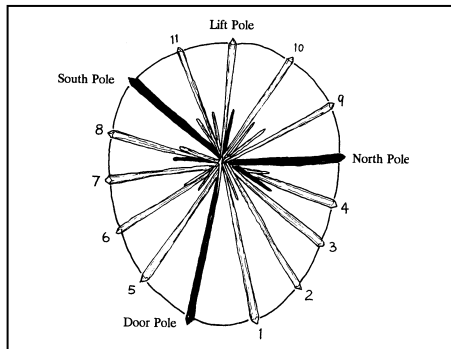


FIGURE #4

STEP 4

THIS IS IMPORTANT! - Facing the tipi, put your door pole exactly where you want your left-hand door entrance to be. (Figure #5)



Take the time to get these exactly where you want them. It is very hard to shift the tipi when it is all together.

STEP 5 PUTTING THE REST OF THE POLES ON THE TRIPOD

Set aside your next strongest pole for the lift pole and set aside the two lightest poles for your smoke flaps. This should leave you with eleven (11) poles to place in tripod. Use the pole diagram (figure #5) and put each pole on the tripod in order from one to eleven (1-11). Take pole #1 and look up at the top of the tripod. There is a crotch formed by the north and south tripod pole. Go ahead and rest pole #1 in its natural place and put 2, 3, and 4 right on top of it. Move over to #5 and put it right on top of pole # 5. Move around back and put #9 and #10 in place in the natural opening formed up top. Pole #11 fits into a natural opening that you will see when you look up. Make sure you leave room for the lift pole between pole # 10 and #11. It is best to set the poles in slightly smaller that the tipi diameter-poles are easy to adjust outward but difficult to adjust in. This sounds a little complicated, but as you lay the poles on the tripod, you will see that there is a natural place for each of them to go. (Figure #6a, #6b).

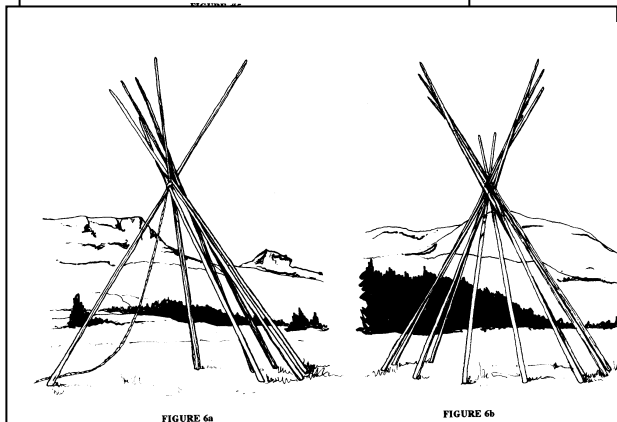
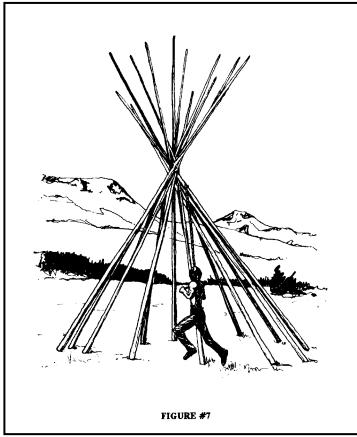


FIGURE 6a

FIGURE 6b

Note: Smaller tipis have fewer poles: 12' and 14' tipis use 3 poles between tripod poles and the 9' tipi uses 2 poles.

STEP 6



After pole #11 is in place, just grab the dangling rope, go outside the poles, and walk around the framework four (4) times. (Figure #7)

This ties all the poles together. As you walk, keep tension on the rope and jerk it hard now and then. This causes the rope to slip up tight around the poles where you've tied the tripod. After the 4th wrap, tie the rope off on the right tripod pole near the bottom.

Now your tipi is actually starting to look like a tipi! Don't worry about exact placement of the eleven (11) poles at this point. You will do final adjusting after the cover goes on.

STEP 7 PUTTING ON THE COVER

Spread out the cover on the ground with the outside up. It is easy to tell the inside from the outside by the white vinyl reinforcement around the lace pins which, is inside. Take your lift pole and slide it under the cover with the bottom of the pole extending beyond the canvas to the outer edge of the stake loop sewn to the cover.

(Figure #8) Then the cover should be rolled from both sides to the center

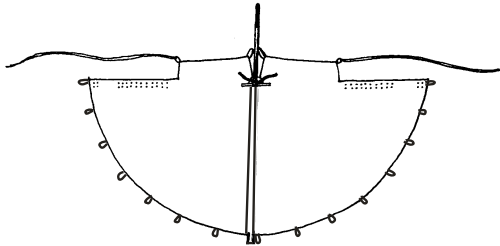


FIGURE #8

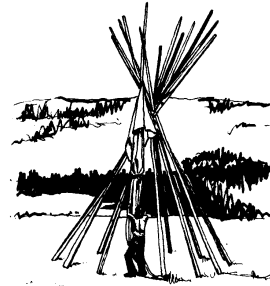


FIGURE #9

- Tie the cover to the pole by wrapping the tie straps around the pole at least twice and finish with a square knot. Make sure the cover is pulled tight along the lift pole.
- Tie the two smoke flap ropes provided with the tipi to the loops at the base of the smoke flaps.
- IMPORTANT** -(Sioux and Cheyenne Style) Open up the smoke flap pockets to make them ready to receive the smoke flap poles. After the cover is up, you have to push the poles into the pockets from the ground. If they are not open and ready, it is going to be somewhat tricky.

Now, have someone hold the butt of the pole to the ground and lift the pole and set it into place right at the back of the tipi. (Figure #9) As you look up at the top, you will see the natural opening that it will fit into. Make sure to keep the pole on the inside of the cover or you may try to put the cover on inside out.

Grab the edges and unroll the cover around both sides until it meets at the doorway. (Figure #10)

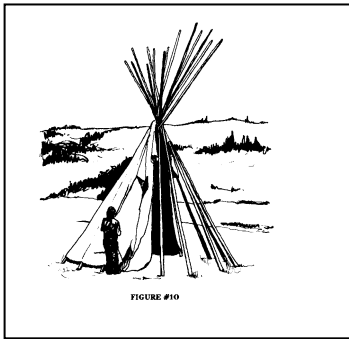


FIGURE #10

Be sure to pull your smoke flaps outside the cover with the smoke flap ropes as you pull the cover around. To lace the front, you are going to need a ladder, strong friend, or be an extremely tall person to do this. Next, put in your lacing pins, starting from top to bottom. Overlap the flaps making sure the nylon ties at the top of the lace pin holes match up. Seal by pushing the lacing pin through these lace pin holes (top side hole to under side hole and then out again through the top side hole, right to left).

After you have it all laced up, go inside and adjust the poles to get a perfect fit of the cover. Just push them out a little at a time until the cover fits smoothly. As you push the poles out, wiggle and twist them so they will extend to the ground

level. NOTE: The tripod poles are *tied* and will not extend. You are just about finished.

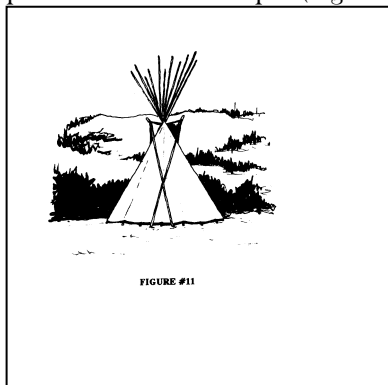
STEP 8 STAKING DOWN THE COVER

To stake down the cover to get a wrinkle free look, start at the back and alternate side to side (10, 11, 9, S, N, 8, 4, 7, 3, 6, 5, D, 1). Pull the cover down snug but not super tight.

CAUTION: Take care when hammering in stakes not to hit the cover or stake loop as it can cause tears to the fabric. NOTE: The cover should be 4" to 6" off the ground when properly stake down. Your tipi should look terrific at this point.

STEP 9 SMOKE FLAP POLES

Take the smoke flap poles and insert them into the smoke flap pockets (Sioux and Cheyenne Style). It will probably be necessary to flap the smoke flaps with the ropes to get a good angle to insert your poles. For Crow and Blackfoot style tipis there is a leather reinforced hole for you smoke flap pole. You will need to tie a stick perpendicular to the smoke flap pole and then insert the pole into the hole in the smoke flap. The small stick will act as a "stop" for the pole. After they are in the pockets or through the leather reinforcement, criss-cross the poles in back to the tipi. (Figure #11).



The tension will keep them standing there. If you want to close the smoke flaps (rain, etc.), just move the poles around to the sides and they will shut the smoke flaps. Most rain will hit the poles up top and run down outside the liner and onto the ground. You can tie your smoke flap ropes on either side or on one side depending on how open you want it. Pull the ropes snug to get a wrinkle free look and tie them to one of the poles near the ground or stake them out approximately 6'-8' away from the tipi.

CONGRATULATIONS!! You have got a complete tipi! That wasn't too bad - was it? If you have any problems that you are unable to figure out, just give us a call at 1-800-544-1039. We will be glad to help you!

Thanks again for selecting a Reliable Tipi! Have Fun!

OTHER NOTES OF INTEREST:

- A. If possible, choose a site slightly higher than the surrounding area to provide for drainage.
- B. When the tipi is erected on the ground, it pays to dig a shallow trench around the base and slope outward to catch water rolling off the cover.
- C. If you are in an *extremely* windy area or if your ground will not effectively hold stakes, you can take the rope hanging from the tripod, drive a stake directly below it, and tie the rope to it. The tipi is *very* wind resistant and unless the situation is extreme, this is not necessary.
- D. Your tipi is made with stake loops but if you want to stake your tipi down with the pebble and loop method, we highly recommend getting "The Indian Tipi Book" by Reginald & Gladys Laubin. This book describes a number of authentic methods.

PAINTING TIPS

Use pencil to outline graphics. Short nap roller can be used on large areas, trim with brush. We recommend an exterior latex house paint (good quality) with a UV inhibitor. Experiment on scrap canvas.

CARE OF YOUR CANVAS TIPI

Regardless of fabric option, the life of canvas depends on how well you take care of it. Never store your tipi damp or wet! Never leave fires unattended! Soiled areas can be cleaned with a mild soap solution (Ivory, etc.) and soft bristle brush. Common sense goes a long way!

Tipis do not require preconditioning- The tipi has very steep sides and water will not be able to accumulate on the canvas. Your tipi will shrink in the weather, but since there is not a "framework" that it has to fit, this is not a concern.

Fire pits in a Tipi- The tipi is made to be used with a fire in the center of it. We do, however, caution use of a fire in any tipi. Fires are not recommended in tipis under a 14' diameter.

Winds- The conical shape of the tipi makes for a very wind resistant structure, however, a strong gust can topple a tipi. When you have your tipi set up, you should have a length of rope left hanging from where you tie together the poles. This rope should be pulled down to the ground and staked to hold the poles down tight.

Mildew- One of the most common problems that occur in canvas is mildew. Even if the tipi is made of a fabric that is mildew resistant, it will mildew if left damp. Mildew is very destructive to cotton fabrics as well as other materials. Mildew usually forms when tipis are put in storage when damp but it can also start for no apparent reason. Mildew can start in a very short time and under certain conditions of humidity and temperature. If mildew has started to grow, it can be stopped from spreading by thoroughly drying the tent, preferably in the hot sun and applying a cleaner such as IOSSO Tent & Camping Gear Cleaner. This cleaner is made to remove tough dirt and mildew stains. Afterwards you may find it necessary to treat the tent with a water-repellent compound such as Canvak. If using another treatment, be sure to read the label to make sure it is safe for use on canvas. After any treatment has been applied, make sure the tipi dries completely before putting into storage. If you are leaving your tipi up for an extended period of time, it is recommended that you keep the grass and weeds trimmed from around the bottom to keep the air flowing under the cover which will deter mildew growth. Do not delay in drying your tipi after use!!