

# General Care & Maintenance

## SOLID COVER & SIDEWALL VINYL

The vinyl fabric developed for this tent system requires specific attention during installation, cleaning, and storage to maintain its maximum life span. Please follow the following care and maintenance guidelines provided for this product.

**GROUND CLOTHS:** The usage of ground covering material under the tent fabric during installation and dismantle will protect the tent fabric from soiling and from minor surface abrasions. Never drag the tent top unprotected or across abrasive services to avoid scuffs, tears or pinholes.

**MILDEW TREATMENT:** Our vinyl fabric is pretreated with mildew inhibitors that help prevent the growth and spreading of mildew and fungus. Although treated, proper care should be given to prevent potential growth. If you see mildew wipe it away immediately with a clean towel and diluted soap solution. Never fold tent covers if the fabric is even slightly wet since mildew will grow in moist environments. Your best bet is to keep your fabric clean and dry to prevent mildew growth.

**CLEANING:** We would recommend testing a piece of scrap vinyl material before applying any new cleaner to the actual product. The best way to clean the vinyl tent fabric is with a soft towel or soft bristled brush immersed in a diluted solution of warm water and a tent cleaning solution. A diluted and mixed solution of a tablespoon of traditional dish soap with a gallon of warm water will also work, but extra caution should be placed on insuring that this cleaning solution is thoroughly rinsed from the fabric especially with clear vinyls.

You will need a large, smooth, flat space slightly larger than the section of vinyl fabric. This space should be covered with a ground protecting layer to avoid damaging the tent.

Apply the diluted solution directly to the fabric using 1) a towel immersed in the solution, or 2) a spray bottle or larger pressurized spraying apparatus to evenly cover the fabric with the solution. Let this sit on the fabric for about one minute to allow the mixture to penetrate the fabric. Using a soft towel or soft bristled polypropylene brush, gently work the cleaner into the fabric using only mild pressure. Never allow the tent cleaner to dry on the fabric. Once the cleaning is complete be sure to rinse away any cleaning solution completely.

Full immersion of the fabric in water is not recommended. If you have a difficult stain that cannot be removed with traditional cleaning, please consult with your sales person before trying any other chemicals that might end up damaging the material further. Cleaners that include chlorine bleach, and/or any petroleum based solvents will degrade the fabric, discolor the fabric and shorten its life span.

**FABRIC DRYING:** The best way to dry the vinyl tent fabric is to hang-dry in a low humidity environment. Please also assure that other components, such as straps, Velcro flaps, and roping, are dry before folding. Fans can be used to circulate air but, do not use heated dryers.

**STORAGE:** Store in a cool, dry area in the storage bags that came with your cover. We also recommend using pallets under the fabric to allow air circulation and to prevent condensation from forming on the vinyl.

## CLEAR VINYL

The clear vinyl used in window-style sidewalls, clear sidewalls, and clear tent tops needs to be managed differently than standard tent fabric. Polyester scrim is what gives standard tent fabric its strength, stability and durability. Laminated tent fabric enjoys the benefit of encasing this woven layer of rip-stop polyester between the layers of colored vinyl film. Clear vinyl does not enjoy those benefits. Because of this, clear vinyl has a very low tolerance to ultra violet ray exposure, wind, airborne particulate matter, hot or cold temperatures, elasticity due to wind and rain and handling. Any or all of these factors will cause clear fabric to under-perform when compared to traditional tent fabric.

**CLEANING:** Special attention should be paid to the cleaning of these items. Use only the softest towels when cleaning the clear membrane to avoid scratching the highly polished surface, and wipe dry to avoid water spots. Use standard diluted tent cleaning solution. DO NOT USE OTHER CHEMICALS.

**STORAGE:** Store in a cool, dry area in the storage bags that came with your cover. We also recommend using pallets under the material to allow air circulation and to prevent condensation from forming on the vinyl. Putting away and storing damp or wet clear vinyl can result in a color change to an amber hue.

**CONSIDERATIONS:** Exposure to ultra violet rays for an extended amount of time, as will occur with time over the life of the product, can cause clear vinyl to appear milky or opaque. A steady wind can whip clear vinyl back and forth creating surface abrasions or cracks in the material. Heat in excess of 85°F can cause clear vinyl to change shape, bubble, shrink or stretch. Although our clear vinyl has a cold crack rating of minus-15°F, that rating is for a static environment. Any introduction of wind or manipulation by handling can cause failure (cracking like glass) even at nominal temperatures above freezing. Airborne particulate matter can cause surface abrasions causing the finish to become less translucent.

Since clear tent covers are highly elastic, they are very susceptible to rainwater ponding. If rain is forecasted during the use of these products it is recommended to take additional precautions with frequent inspections throughout the duration of the rainfall to inspect for potential ponding on the clear vinyl cover. If rainwater ponding occurs at any point on the cover, evacuate the tent, remove the water, and adjust the tie back rope/web pre-stress tension and/or cover tensioning over the frame back to its design geometry to achieve proper drainage.

# General Care & Maintenance, continued

## FRAME HARDWARE & COMPONENTS

The hardware components developed for this tent system require specific attention during installation, cleaning, and storage to maintain their maximum life span. Please follow the following care and maintenance guidelines provided for this product.

**OXIDATION:** The hardware components for this tent system have been supplied to you with specialty coatings to help limit oxidation. With usage, these coatings will need to be maintained in order to limit oxidation and for the product reach its full intended lifespan. Our anodized aluminum components will get scratched over time and these scratched areas can develop a thin black oxidation common with mill finish aluminum. This black oxidation can cause staining to any fabric components that come in contact with the pole/component. Your best preventative measure will be to avoid scratching of the anodized coating by avoiding any sharp edges that might be come in contact with the aluminum frame.

**HARDWARE CLEANING:** It is very important to keep your frame hardware components clean and free of dirt, oxidation, and other chemicals especially if those hardware components come into contact with any fabric components to prevent any staining or permanent damage to the fabric. If your hardware components are found to be soiled, wipe down immediately to remove the foreign matter.

**STORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS:** The tent frame system should be stored dry in a cool, dry, low humidity covered place.

**INSPECTION:** Hardware components that are bent, cracked, or damaged should be immediately replaced and not used. Specific attention should be paid toward any devices used for anchoring including ratchets, ropes, cables, and web straps.