

PRINTABLE TENT MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Use this field checklist after each camping trip and before long-term storage to keep your shelter dry, clean, reliable, and ready for the next trip.

AFTER EACH TRIP

DONE	MAINTENANCE TASK	WHY IT MATTERS
☐	Shake out dirt, leaves, pine needles, and sand before packing.	Grit abrades tent floors, seams, zippers, and coatings.
☐	Open doors, vents, and vestibules once home.	Airflow helps prevent trapped moisture and odors.
☐	Dry the tent completely before storage.	Wet storage is one of the fastest causes of mildew and coating damage.
☐	Spot-clean mud, salt, sap, and stains with mild soap and fresh water.	Dirt and salt shorten fabric, zipper, and coating life.
☐	Brush grit from zipper tracks and test every zipper.	Clean zippers are less likely to snag, split, or fail in the field.

SEASONAL CARE

DONE	MAINTENANCE TASK	WHY IT MATTERS
☐	Inspect fly, floor, corners, vestibules, and high-wear seams.	Small tears and worn points are easier to fix early.
☐	Check seam tape for lifting, peeling, bubbles, or gaps.	Seam failure is a common cause of leaks in older tents.
☐	Re-seal seams if the manufacturer recommends it or if leakage appears.	Fresh seam protection restores wet-weather reliability.
☐	Refresh DWR when rain stops beading on the fly.	Better water beading reduces wet-out and condensation pressure.
☐	Inspect poles for cracks, bends, corrosion, or loose ferrules.	Damaged poles reduce wind stability and can tear fabric.
☐	Check shock cord tension and replace sagging or frayed cord.	Reliable pole tension makes setup faster and more secure.
☐	Inspect guylines, tensioners, clips, buckles, and stake loops.	Strong attachment points improve pitch quality and storm performance.
☐	Replace bent stakes and add terrain-specific stakes if needed.	Good anchors help maintain a taut pitch in wind and rain.

STORAGE & PRE-TRIP CHECKS

Complete these checks before storing your tent and again before the first trip of the season. Record any repairs or replacement parts below.

BEFORE STORAGE

DONE	MAINTENANCE TASK	WHY IT MATTERS
☐	Confirm the tent is fully dry inside and out.	Prevents mildew, odor, and waterproof coating breakdown.
☐	Store the tent loosely in a breathable bag.	Long-term compression can damage coatings and creases.
☐	Keep poles and stakes clean and dry.	Reduces corrosion and prevents fabric punctures.
☐	Store in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight.	Heat and UV exposure shorten fabric and coating lifespan.
☐	Pack a repair kit with patches, seam sealer, pole splint, spare cord, and zipper lubricant.	A small kit can prevent a minor issue from ending a trip.

QUICK PRE-TRIP CHECK

DONE	MAINTENANCE TASK	WHY IT MATTERS
☐	Pitch the tent at home before the first trip of the season.	Confirms all parts are present and setup still works smoothly.
☐	Spray or hose-test repaired seams and patches.	Verifies leak repairs before bad weather exposes them.
☐	Count stakes, guylines, poles, clips, footprint, and repair items.	Prevents missing-part surprises at camp.
☐	Practice the stake pattern and guyline tensioning for expected terrain.	A taut pitch improves waterproofing, ventilation, and wind resistance.

FIELD NOTES / REPAIRS NEEDED

Tent model: _____ Date: _____

Tip: Always follow the tent manufacturer's cleaning, seam-sealing, and waterproofing instructions.