



Instructions for Setting Up a 3-Pole Tipi

Please view our set up instructional video on our website www.tipi.com

Greetings from the Nomadics Tipi Makers

These tipi set up instructions are complete and detailed in every respect. Although you may be familiar with setting up tipis, you must use the exact measurements that we provide here. If you use the correct tripod pole lengths and the ground plan distances, your Nomadics tipi will set up tight and wrinkle free. Additionally, a secure, properly tied clove hitch is the only acceptable knot for ensuring a strongly tied tipi tripod. Always read the entire section of a set up phase before beginning that particular part of the set up process.

If you are setting up your tipi for the first time, please watch our set up instruction video on our website page <http://www.tipi.com/tipi-set-up/>. It is a professionally filmed and edited 70 minute documentary aimed at preserving all the details and historical notes of pitching a 3-Pole tipi. It was filmed in 2015, and measurements and pricing have changed since then. Please use this booklet for current measurements. You will also find the individual segments as shorter video clips - Two people who have never set up a tipi before should complete the cover set up for an 18 ft. tipi in 2-3 hours. The tipi liner will take 1-2 hours; allow more time for the larger tipis.

Although it is rarely necessary, we are always happy to help you trouble shoot issues that might arise. Call us at 1-541-389-3980 or e-mail pictures to nomadics@tipi.com.

Tools you will need:

- 25 ft. tape measure
- Pocket knife or sharp scissors
- Hammer
- Hand saw or hatchet
- Short step ladder or equivalent
- Black felt marking pen

Optional tools:

- 1/2" to 3/4" Electrical staples
- Matches or lighter
- 3/4" or 1" Tack or short nail
- 10 ft. of 1/4" wooden dowel

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR SETTING UP A 3-POLE TIPI

Set your tipi up on level ground and ideally that is slightly higher than the surrounding area - this prevents drainage problems in wet weather. Avoid erecting the tipi directly under old trees that might drop dead branches on your tipi during wind storms. Try to choose a tipi site that will get maximum sun in the winter. If you choose to set up your tipi on a deck or would like to explore other floor solutions, please see page 25.

PREPARING YOUR TIPI POLES

If you have purchased tipi poles from us, the poles have already been peeled. You may need to smooth out any remaining rough spots or branch nodes. Use either a sharp flat blade hatchet, a draw knife, a hand or small electric planer or an electric belt sander using progressively smoother grades of sandpaper. Cracks in the poles, as shown in (2) are natural with lodge pole pine poles. They do not interfere with the structural integrity of the pole.



Once your poles are smooth, you need to treat them with a wood preservative. This will ensure that they will last you 10-15 years and will also help keep the natural light color of the wood. For an organic treatment we prefer a brew of 50% boiled linseed oil (it comes that way from the store) and 50% turpentine. Apply this mixture up to three times, allowing complete drying in-between coats. An excellent commercial product is Maximum from a company named Olympic. Buy it in a clear, natural color and apply 1-3 coats. This product will soak in instantly and you can set up your tipi the same day. Using a rag rather than a brush speeds up the process.

If you are getting your own tipi poles, any species of tree will do for a tipi pole. The important requirements are that it be 3"-3.5" in diameter at the butt and taper to 1.7" in diameter where the cluster of poles cross.

Of course the straighter the tipi pole the better. If a pole is a little bowed, twist the pole so that the bow is against the tipi canvas once the tipi cover is around the poles. If your pole choice is limited, it is better to get poles that are 2.5" at the butt rather than having poles that are too thick.

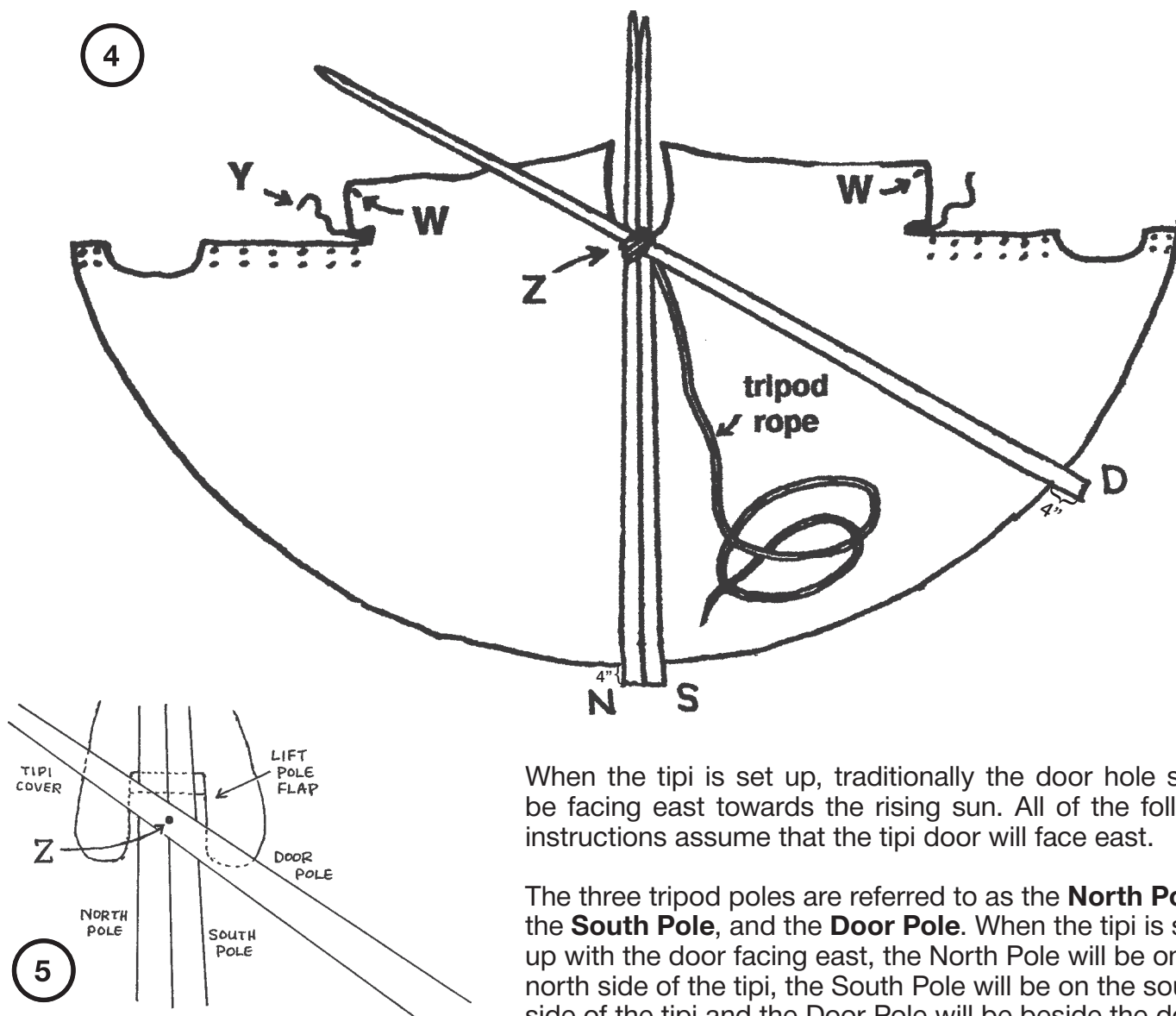
If you gather your poles in the spring then you may be able to simply pull the bark off with your fingers. Poles should be as dry as possible before putting up your tipi. The sooner you remove the bark from the poles the easier it will be to get it off. Be sure your poles are laid flat for drying, the first few days being critical. If you don't have time to dry your poles before putting up your tipi, twist each pole 180° each day for about 10 days or so. This will continually compensate for the bow that wants to develop in the poles. You cannot do this with your tripod poles. They are locked up tight. Likewise, you cannot do this if your tipi liner is up. Leave it off until your poles are sufficiently dry.



Your poles can extend beyond the top of your tipi as far as you like. However, if you are trying to keep them short for easy transportation then they only need to be 2 ft. longer than the stated size of your tipi, i.e. 20 ft. long for an 18 ft. tipi. For the proper installation of a rain cap, your poles should not be more than 4 feet longer than the size of your tipi. Cut your poles at the top and round the tips.

LAYING OUT THE TRIPOD POLES

Select your three sturdiest poles for the tripod poles. Then select the two shortest, smallest, and least straight poles for your smoke flap poles. Set them aside for now. Spread the tipi cover out flat on the ground with the inside of the cover facing upward toward the sky as in (1). Our address label is sewn on the inside of the cover.



When the tipi is set up, traditionally the door hole should be facing east towards the rising sun. All of the following instructions assume that the tipi door will face east.

The three tripod poles are referred to as the **North Pole**, the **South Pole**, and the **Door Pole**. When the tipi is set up with the door facing east, the North Pole will be on the north side of the tipi, the South Pole will be on the south side of the tipi and the Door Pole will be beside the door

on the left side. We refer to the left side of the tipi as the side to your left when you are standing in front of the tipi, facing the door hole as in (8).

To measure the tripod poles for tying, please refer to the measurements on page 5. You can also use the step-off method explained on page 1. The North Pole [N] and the South Pole [S] are laid down the middle of the cover, side by side. The Door Pole [D] is now laid across the north and South Poles and crosses them right at the base to the Lift Pole flap [Z].

IMPORTANT: You do not need to do this layout, measuring and tying on top of the tipi cover itself. The poles can be laying wherever is most convenient, preferably at the exact tipi site, with the butt of the Door Pole [D] exactly where the door will be when the tipi is set up, as in (8's) dotted graphic. Lay the Door Pole across the North and South Poles at the approximate angle that you see in (1) and (8).

THE TRIPOD SET UP

Cotton is a pliable material, therefore tripod measurements cannot be exact all the time. As your tipi ages, your tripod measurements can change due to the stretching of the fabric. The most accurate way to determine the tripod measurements is the step-off method explained on page 1. The measurements given below are for new tipi covers and should be used if you cannot use the step-off method. These measurements include 4" extra pole length beyond the bottom cover edge. [Z] refers to the point where the North Pole, South Pole, and Door Pole are tied together.

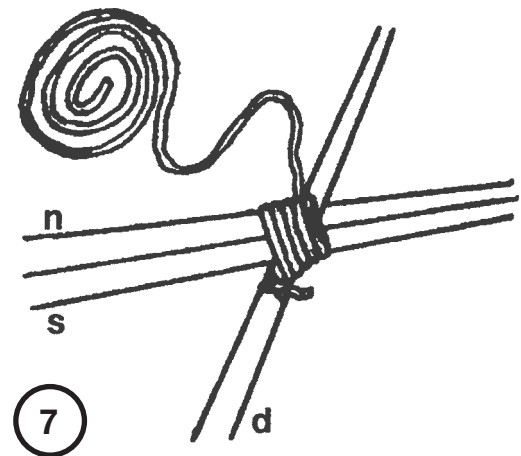
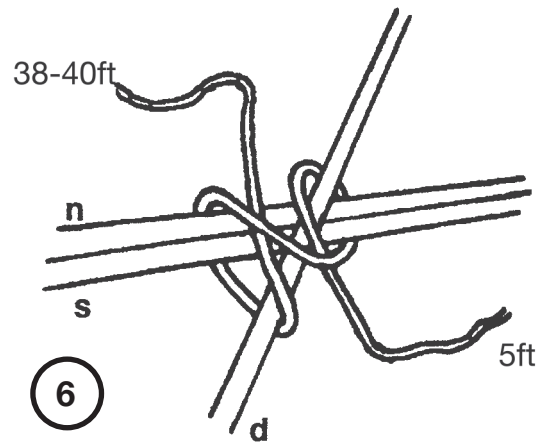
TIPI SIZE	Z to N	Z to S	Z to D
12'	10'7"	10'7"	11'7"
14'	11'5"	11'5"	13'5"
16'	13'8"	13'8"	15'5"
18'	15'10"	15'10"	17'6"
20'	18'2"	18'2"	19'6"
22'	20'	20'	21'2"
24'	21'8"	21'8"	23'4"
26'	23'2"	23'2"	24'9"

TYING THE TRIPOD POLES TOGETHER

You will need 45 ft. of good quality 1/2" manila rope. (55 ft. for 24" and 26" tipis) Straw rope will also be suitable. Synthetic rope will not do. Synthetic rope slips against itself and will not grip the poles. Begin by tying the three tripod poles together with a clove hitch as in (6). Start with about 7 ft. of rope so that when the clove hitch is tied, you have 5 ft. of rope left over on one side of the knot and about 38-40 ft. left over on the other side of the knot. Now starting just below the clove hitch, wrap the 5 ft. of rope around the poles three or four times and finish it off with another clove hitch, see (7). This ties the tripod poles together. The other long end of the tripod rope will be used to raise the tripod - Do not cut it off! Your three tripod poles should now look like (1).

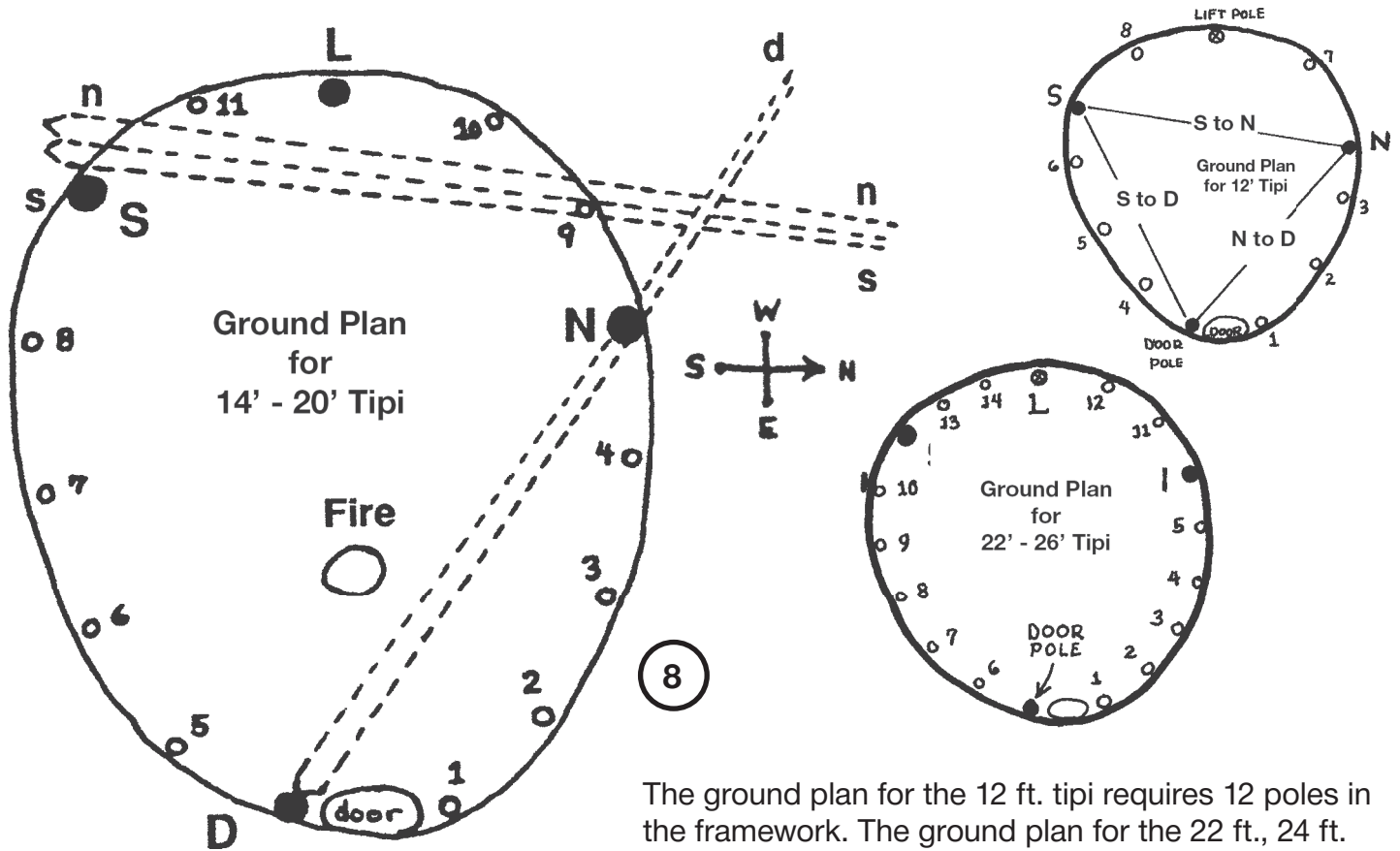
POSITIONING THE TRIPOD POLES

Before carrying the tripod to your tipi site, add a black felt pen mark on both sides of the knot so if it slips during set up you can readjust. When carrying the tripod maintain the relative position of the tripod poles as seen as dotted lines in (8).



To set up the tripod on the proper location, place the butts of the North and South Poles near the black dot [S] in (8). Place the butt of the Door Pole at the black dot [D]. The dotted lines in (8) show the position of the tripod poles on the ground.

THE TIPI GROUND PLAN



The ground plan for the 12 ft. tipi requires 12 poles in the framework. The ground plan for the 22 ft., 24 ft. and 26 ft. tipi requires 18 poles in the framework.

TRIPOD DISTANCES ON THE GROUND

The measurements given here show exactly how to position your North, South, and Door Poles on the ground. Find the size of your tipi on the left column and then measure out the three distances [S] to [D], [N] to [D], and [S] to [N].

The measurements are made along the ground from the inside of the pole butts. You will notice that the tripod poles form an isosceles triangle. An isosceles triangle has two equal sides.

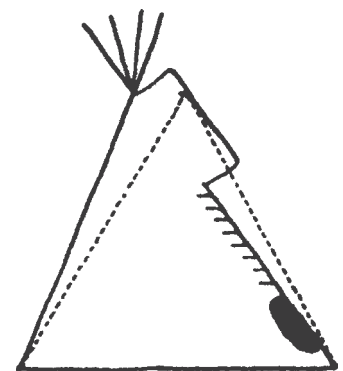
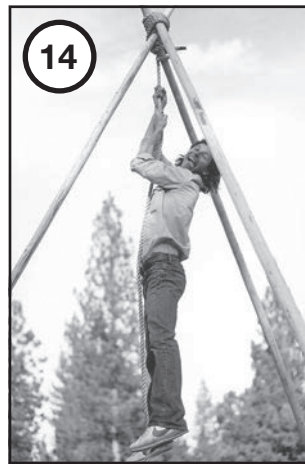
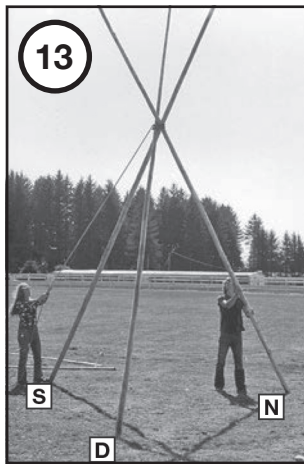
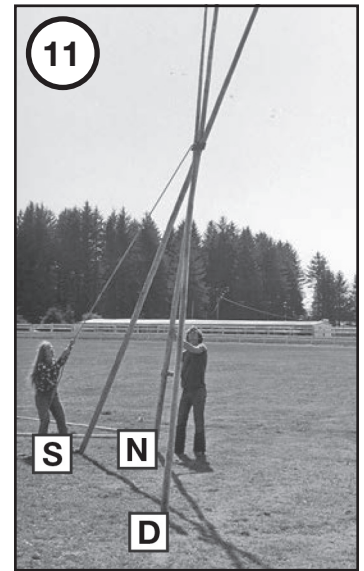
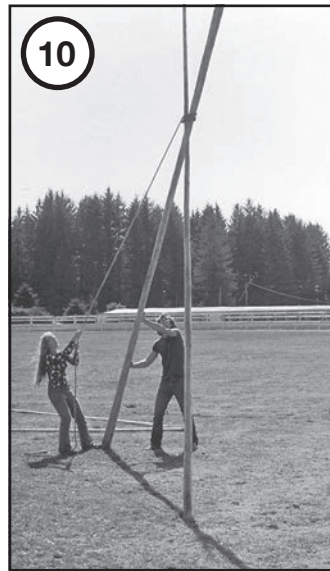
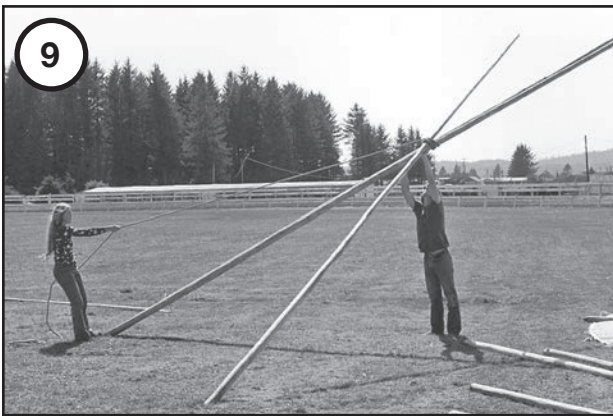
TIPI SIZE	S to D	N to D	S to N
12'	10'5"	10'5"	8'10"
14'	11'8"	11'8"	10'2"
16'	13'	13'	11'10"
18'	15'10"	15'10"	12'10"
20'	18'2"	18'2"	16'2"
22'	19'	19'	17'
24'	20'3"	20'3"	19'4"
26'	23'5"	23'5"	22'

RAISING THE TRIPOD

(9) shows how one person puts their feet at the base of the [N] and [S] poles and pulls on the tripod rope as the other person walks up under the poles, pushing up slowly as they are raised. Then, while holding the poles in a near vertical position, push the North Pole out and away from you approximately 6 ft. Release the tension on the rope allowing the tripod to sit on the ground. The tripod is now stable and you can begin moving each pole out to its correct position according to the **GROUND PLAN** and measurements given on page 6. Take the North Pole and slowly spread the poles into a tripod by swinging the North Pole away from the South Pole and placing the butt of the North Pole at the black dot [N] in (8). See this sequence in (10), (11), (12) and (13).

PLEASE NOTE: If your clove hitch has been properly tied, there should be a reasonable amount of resistance from the knot as you swing the North Pole into position. You should hear definite creaking and squeaking of the rope as the clove hitch clamps down on the tripod poles. The tripod is now locked into position. At this point you can test the strength of your tripod by swinging from the tie rope. It should easily support one or two adults. (14) shows Jeb in his younger years.

Once your tripod pole distances are correctly set, it is best to never move them. Since the tipi is an asymmetrical cone, you will throw the entire set up out of proportion if you move one pole.



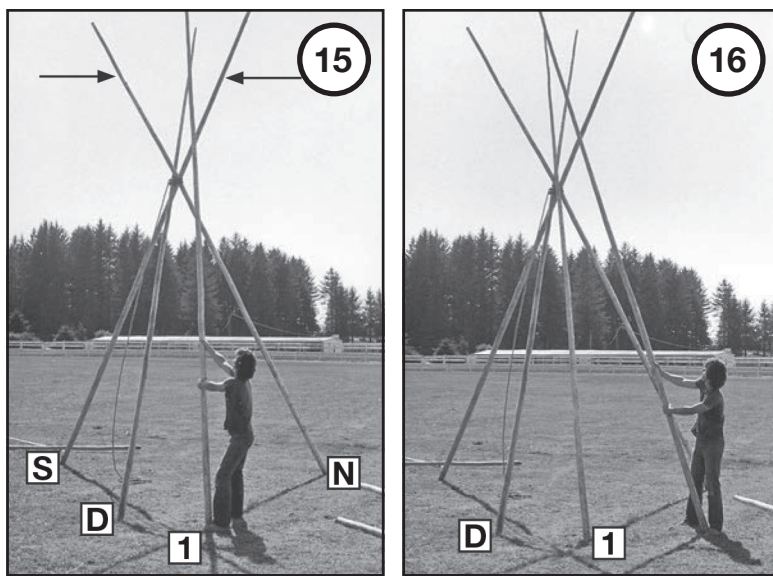
Because the tipi is not a perfectly symmetrical cone, the Door Pole has to be longer in order to tilt it to the rear. In the illustration here the dotted lines represent a perfect cone. The longer, more angular front slope to the tipi helped brace the tipi against the west winds and also afforded more head room at the back of the tipi which is the main living space. This also accounts for the tipi floor being egg shaped.

LAYING IN ALL THE TIPI POLES

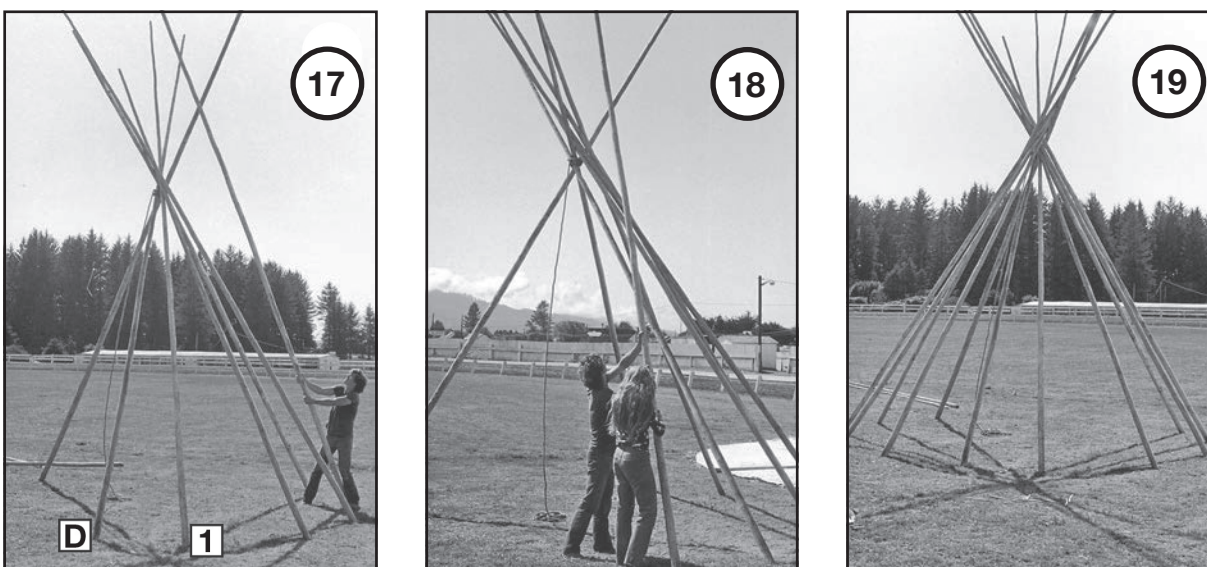
Select your sturdiest pole and set it aside. This will be your Lift Pole. It is used to lift the tipi cover into place after all the poles have been laid in. When carrying a tipi pole around, carry it straight up and down, perpendicular to the ground, see (21).

Now look again at (8). Small circles are drawn to indicate where the butt of each pole goes. The numbers 1 through 11 indicate the proper sequence in which the tipi poles should be laid into the three tripod poles. **Note:** The 14 ft. and 26 ft. tipi have a different number of tipi poles and pole positions than the other tipis. See the Ground Plans in (8).

Select a pole and place the butt of the pole at the “1” position as indicated in (8). I am placing the number 1 pole in position in (15). Put your feet at the base of the pole as you lower it slowly into the front crotch of the tripod poles. It is very important that poles 1, 2, 3, 4 and poles 5, 6, 7, 8 all be placed in this front crotch. I have placed arrows in (15) to indicate the “V” that represents this front crotch of the tripod. This front crotch “V” is formed by the North Pole and the South Pole. When the number 1 pole is in proper position, the distance between the butt of the Door Pole and the butt of the number 1 pole should be about 3 ft. This is where the tipi door hole will be. see (8). Also look at (39). In (39) you are looking at the door from the inside of the tipi. Notice that the Door Pole and number 1 pole run right along-side the door hole. This gives the door hole good taut support and helps hold its shape.

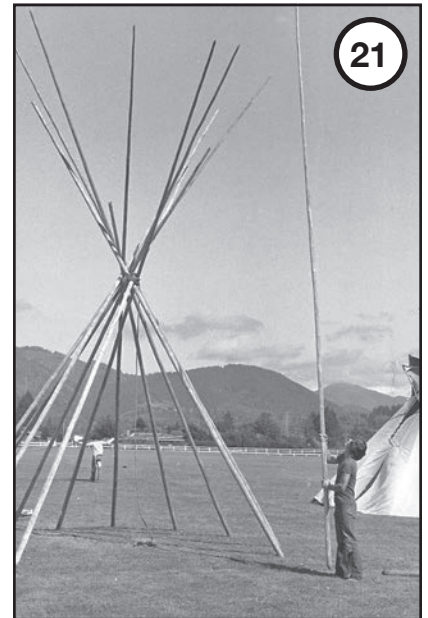
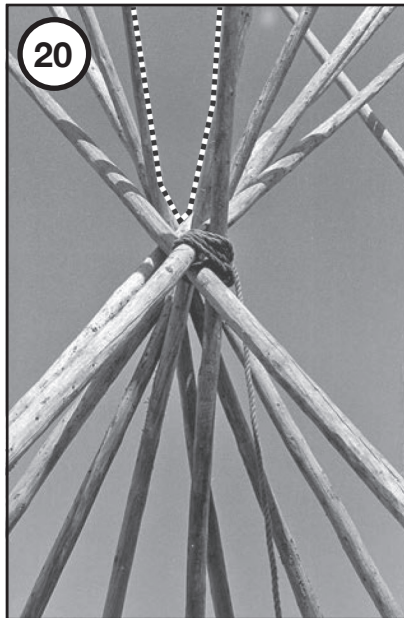


In the same manner, and using (8) as your Ground Plan guide, place poles number 2, 3 and 4 in position. See (16) and (17). Now lay poles 5, 6, 7 and 8 in the front crotch as well. In (18) we are laying in pole number 5. (19) shows poles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 all properly laid in the front crotch and position correctly.

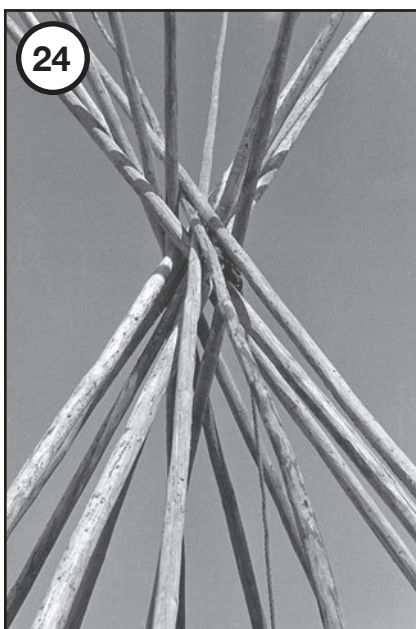
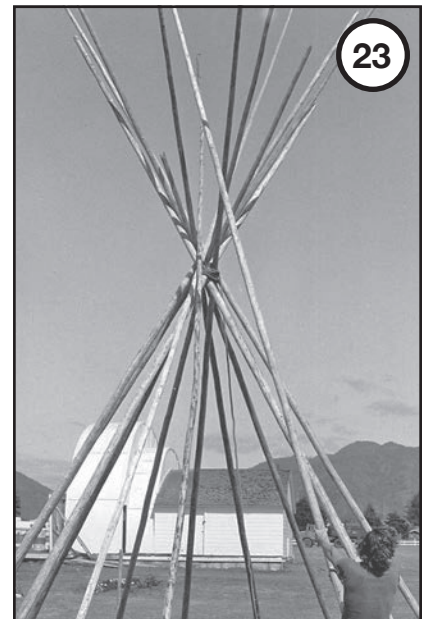
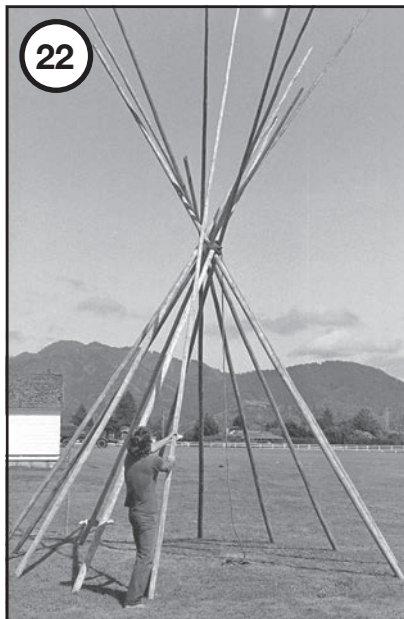


Caution: Poles 7-8 can slip out of the crotch easily, (for a large tipi this is poles 8-10). Have someone hold them in place until you wrap the poles with the cover rope.

Before laying in poles 9, 10 and 11, go around to the back of the tipi and look up at the cluster of poles, see (20). You will notice the opening outlined in black and white dots in (20). This is the back crotch. Lay poles 9,10 and 11 in the back crotch. Notice in (8) that you do not place a pole in the position marked (L), between poles number 10 and 11. This is for the Lift Pole. In (21) and (22) I am laying in pole number 9. Pole number 11 is being laid in place in (23). Note the space to my left where the Lift Pole will be placed. Once poles 9, 10 and 11 are in, the cluster should look like (24) when looking at the pole cluster from the back of the tipi.



Seen in 25. Take the long rope and wrap it around the cluster of poles. Walk clockwise around the tipi. Keep the rope taut but do not pull so hard as to shift any of the poles off the ground. Continue around the tipi 4 times whipping and snapping (1) the rope up into tight coils around the cluster of poles. When you have finished wrapping the rope around 4 times in this manner, bring it over the North Pole and let it hang free toward the ground.

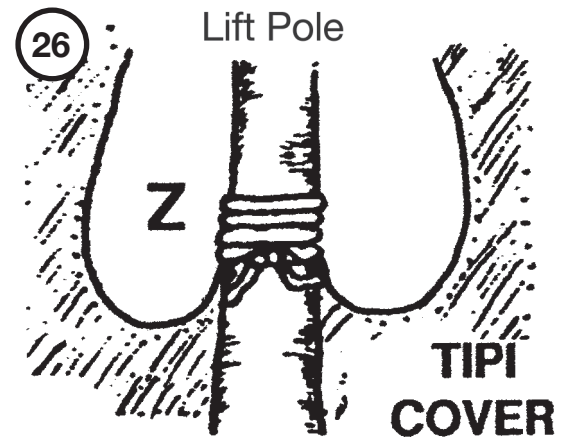


PUTTING ON THE TIPI COVER

Before putting on the tipi cover you might want to treat your canvas with an additional protective finish if you live in extreme climates. Please refer to **Care of Your Tipi Cover** on page 27.

Take the pole you have chosen for the Lift Pole and lay it on the outstretched tipi cover directly on top of the Lift Pole flap (26). At the bottom center edge of the tipi cover extend the butt of the Lift Pole off the tipi cover about 4". Using a 2'6" piece of small rope, run the rope through the loop in the Lift Pole flap. Have one person hold the bottom edge of the tipi cover tightly against the tipi Lift Pole with 4" of tipi pole extending beyond the edge of the canvas as just explained. The other person, at the Lift Pole flap, pulls the canvas gently but steadily to stretch the canvas flat against the pole. Using the rope that has been put through the Lift Pole flap slot bind the Lift Pole tightly to the pole. See [Z] in (1) and also in (26).

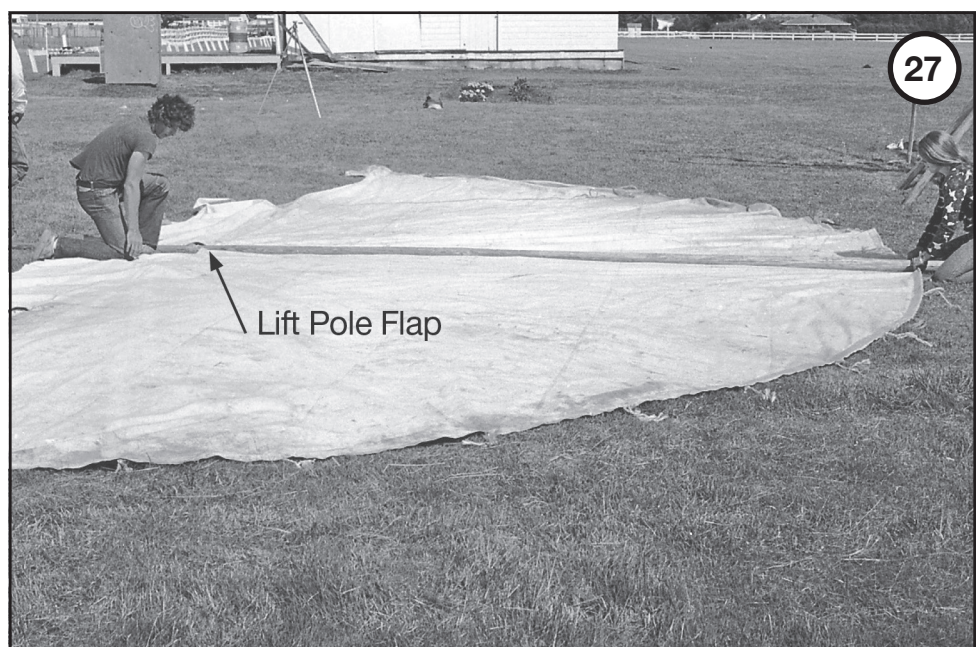
PLEASE NOTE: If your tipi slips down from its original tie point at any phase of your tipi set up process, the tipi will not fit perfectly. If it slips as much as 2" or 3" or more you will have wrinkles in the back and that will not come out. Therefore we suggest you hammer a small, 3/4" or 1" tack or nail through the Lift Pole flap at the rope loop and into the Lift Pole. The Lift Pole flap is four layers thick and this small hole will not weaken or tear the canvas. First, bind the Lift Pole flap down as explained before. The tack is an additional aid. The reason why securing the Lift Pole flap to the Lift Pole is so important is because of the sheer weight of the tipi cover itself. An 18 ft. tipi weighs 55 to 65 lbs depending on the fabric you choose. We highly recommend using a tack with the 22 ft. or 26 ft. tipi because of their excessive weight. The moment the tipi cover is spread over the poles all stress is relieved from the tack.



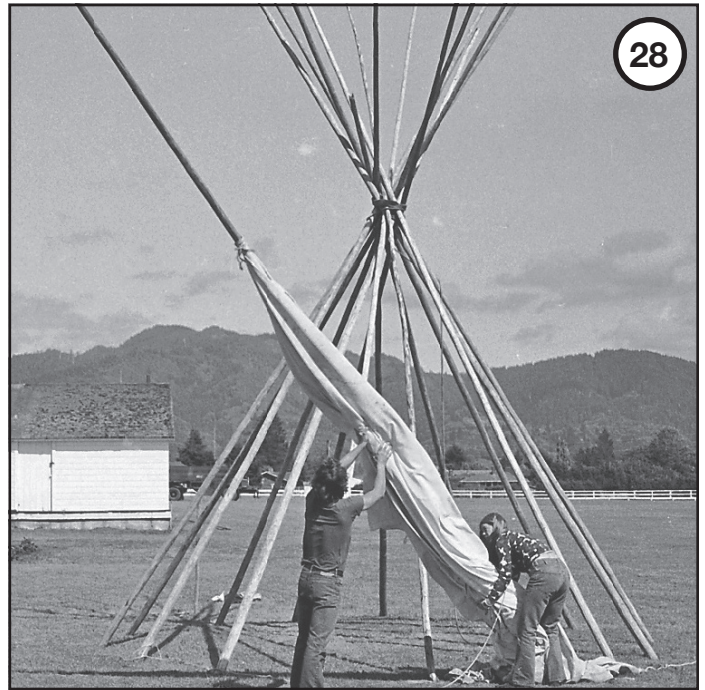
Take your staking cord and prepare the staking loop as explained on page 13. Divide the rest of the rope into two equal length cords. These are your smoke flap lines.

Now tie a "smoke flap line" to each of the peg loops at the bottom of the smoke flaps. See [W] in (1). These lines will then be tied to a stake in front of the tipi as in (77) and (80).

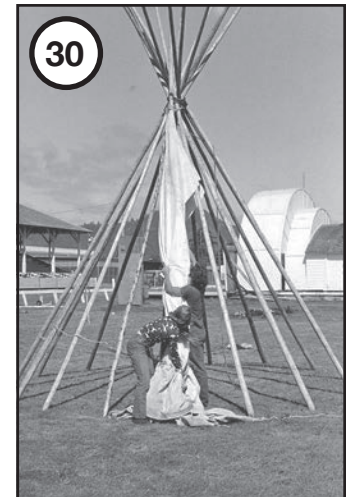
Wedge a stick into your smoke flaps so that they stay open. This will be helpful once you try to put the smoke flap poles into them. Now, with the tipi cover still on the ground, fold each side of the canvas in towards the Lift Pole until the tipi is one long bundle laying along-side the Lift Pole, see (28).



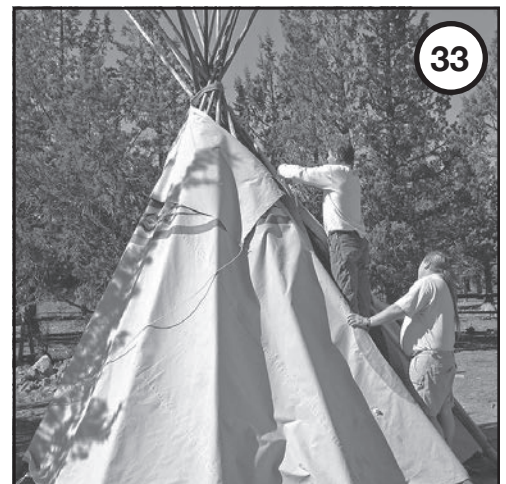
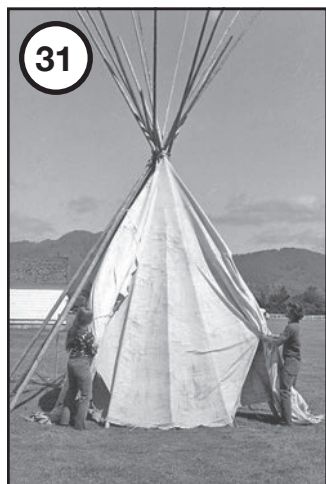
With the heavier tipis, or if you are raising the tipi by yourself, we suggest some additional support techniques. Bind the tipi cover to the lift pole by wrapping it with the smoke flap rope. Use a slip-knot of some sort and leave a long enough tail that you can reach it and release it from the ground. Now grip the canvas very tightly against the Lift Pole and raise the entire bundle in the air as in (28). It is very important not to let the weight of the tipi cover “hang” from the Lift Pole flap where you have bound it to the Lift Pole. Place the butt of the Lift Pole at L in 8, and slowly lower it into position in the back crotch. See (29), (30) and (31). When you are lowering the Lift Pole into the back crotch, the back crotch should look like (24). Twist the Lift Pole so that the tipi canvas is on the backside or outside of the Lift Pole.



Spread the cover around the poles and bring it together between the Door Pole and the # 1 pole. It helps to billow the canvas as you walk towards the front. This helps “float” the canvas around the poles rather than jerking and pulling it across the surface of the tipi poles themselves. See (31) and (32).



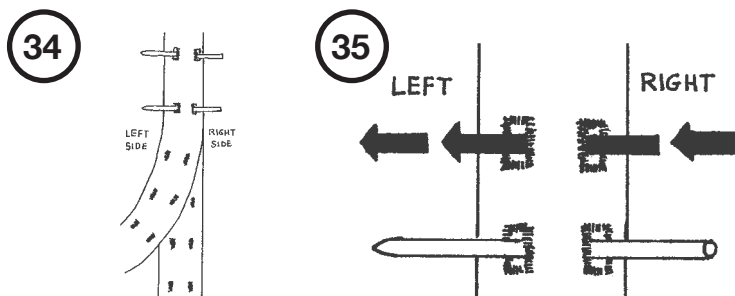
When you have brought the tipi halves together at the front, go inside and tie the short smoke tie ribbons together. They are at the top of the pinning flaps - (Y) in (1). Tie them together as shown in (33). You will need a short step ladder or equivalent to reach the ties.



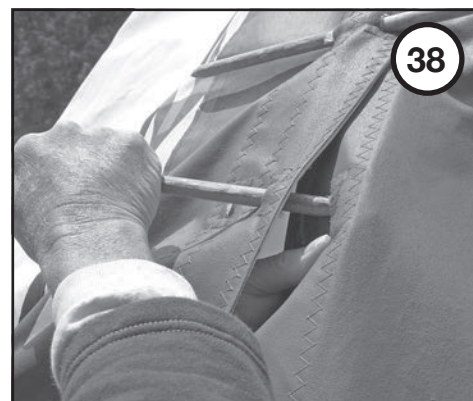
PINNING YOUR TIPI COVER TOGETHER

Lacing pins should be $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter and 14" long each. A pointed end makes it much easier to work the lacing pin through the four button holes at each lacing pin location. Do not put a super sharp point on the end of the pin. A sharp point could potentially pierce the tipi cover fabric if you accidentally poked the fabric with the pin.

IMPORTANT: When standing outside the tipi, the left Pinning Flap should go over on top of the right Pinning Flap, see (34).

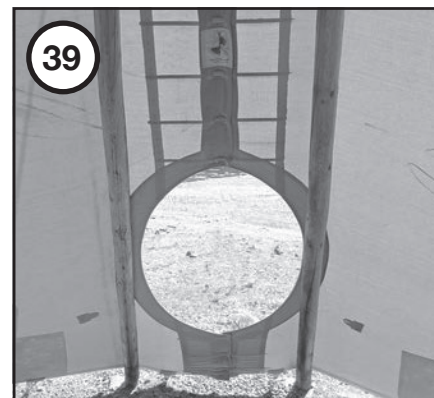


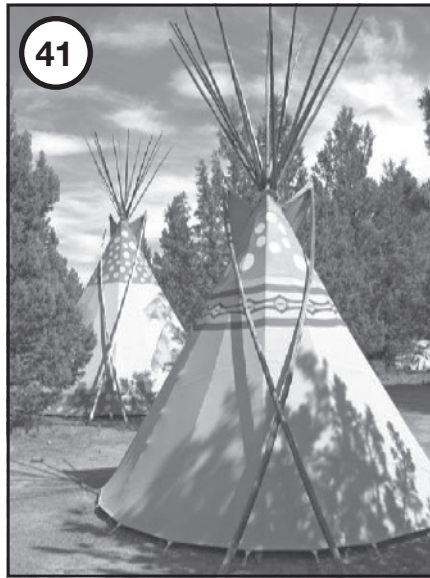
Put the lacing pin through the button holes going from right to left as shown in the illustration. It is very helpful to first prepare each button hole - while the tipi cover is on the ground - by putting a pin in it and widening the hole. Work the pin in a circular motion four or five times to stretch the hole a little bit. It is best to twist or "screw" the pin as you maneuver it through the two holes on the right and then out the two holes on the left. There are two holes on each side because the two pinning facing are on top of each other in order to bind them together securely. Begin at the top of the pinning facing just under the smoke flaps as shown in (33) and (36). For lacing the pinning facing together properly, see (36), (37) and (38).



Once the pinning flaps are laced together you are ready to adjust the tipi cover and stake it down. First, move the #1 pole so that it runs along side the door hole as in (39). If the tipi cover is very wrinkled all around the sides and it is 6" or more above the ground in most places, move all the poles inside about 6". To do this, twist the pole back-and-forth and push it upwards as you move it inside, toward the center of the tipi.

Please Note: Do not try to move the tripod poles very much. A few inches is the most you should ever move them if you move them at all. Moving the other tipi poles inward slightly will allow you to pull the wrinkles out of the canvas and give the cover a uniform appearance. If you have too much canvas near the ground, then simply move some of the poles to the outside a few inches. At this point you should not be trying to get the tipi cover super tight. Just get all the major wrinkles out by adjusting your poles in and out.





PREPARING YOUR SMOKE FLAP POLES

Now go back to the two tipi poles that you set aside for use as smoke flap poles. You will need to cut them off so that they are two feet longer than the size of your tipi. For example, for an 18 ft. tipi, the smoke pole length needs to be 20 ft. long, for a 20 ft. tipi, they need to be 22 ft. long etc. Whatever amount you need to cut off should be cut from the thin end of the pole. The cut end should be rounded and smoothed so that it is not abrasive to the canvas in the smoke flap pocket.

Now, place the two smoke flap poles in the smoke flap pockets and cross their butts behind the tipi as in (41). The butts of the smoke poles should be 2 ft. to 3 ft. from the edge of the tipi. Do not put a lot of pressure on the smoke flaps just yet. Just support them enough to take any major wrinkles out of the smoke flaps themselves.

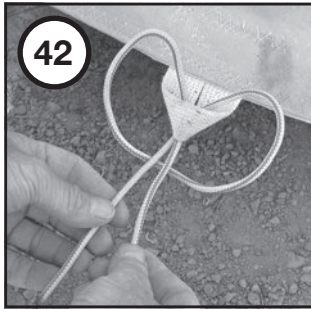
STAKING THE TIPI COVER DOWN

If you purchased our plastic tent stakes, you have received staking cord as well. Count the number of peg loops on your tipi cover and cut 30" lengths, for each peg loop (it is best to melt each end of the cut cord to prevent fraying.) Tie the 30" pieces to each peg loop as is shown in the next photo. NEVER PUT YOUR TENT STAKES DIRECTLY THROUGH THE TIPI PEG LOOPS. If your tipi is securely staked down, the tipi will withstand very strong winds, assuming your smoke flaps are closed tightly. For sandy or loose soil, we recommend larger stakes. For rocky soil, please use metal stakes.

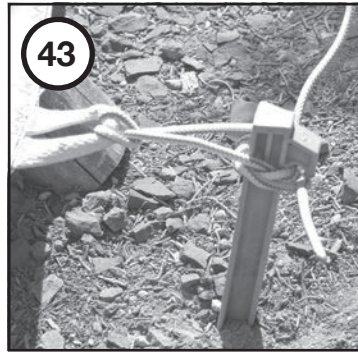
Before you stake your tipi down, there are two things that you need to check. First, go inside the tipi and check the way the cover looks for uniformity. It is OK at this point to have a few wrinkles but they should be essentially the same on both sides of the tipi. The usual causes for an uneven set up are poles that have slipped, three or four poles sinking particularly deep into the ground, an uneven ground or incorrect ground plan measurements. Also be sure that the door hole opening is between the Door Pole and the # 1 pole.

Ideally the cover should have no wrinkles but be draped loosely and uniformly around the poles. Now be sure that none of your poles are tight against the canvas. Move your poles so that they are about 4" to 6" inside of where you think their final position will be. This is strictly an "eyeball" affair. At this point, notice that the canvas will be a little tight across your three tripod poles and may even be a little high on them also. That is OK. Do not move the tripod poles in. We are essentially going to move all the other poles out to meet them in the final finishing stage of the set up. What you are looking for at this point is a uniform draping of the tipi cover.

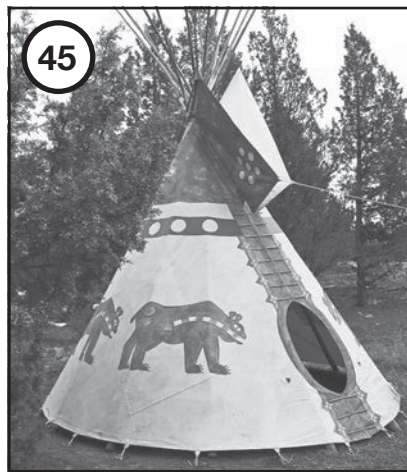
Now stake the tipi down. To do this, pull the peg loop down and out away from the poles. Pull out as hard as you can. Position your tie stake about 4" from the peg loop. Drive the stake in the ground about half way in and tie the cord to the stake, see (43). When the cord is taut, hammer the stake all the way into the ground, see (44). Start your staking at the front of the tipi and go towards the back side, doing both sides simultaneous. When your tipi is finished being set up, the bottom edge of the tipi cover should be about 3" off the ground.



Looping the tie cord through the peg loop



When the tipi is completely staked down, go inside and push the poles outward against the cover as hard as you can. Again, twist each pole and pull down on it as you push it out against the cover, see (46). Attach the smoke flap lines to a tall stake or pole in front of the tipi and pull them taut. This stake should be 6 ft. tall and placed 6 ft. in front of the door hole (77) and (80). Now push the smoke poles up taut in the smoke flap pockets. Your tipi should now look like (46) and the color photo on the back cover of these set up instructions.



A properly staked down tipi before the tipi poles have been pushed out against the cover to their final positions. Note that the tipi is staked about 3" off the ground.

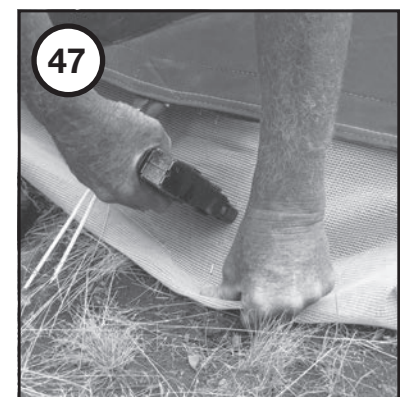


Final set up after the tipi poles have been pushed out to their final positions. Now look around the tipi and space the poles evenly but not necessarily equidistant.

TROUBLE-SHOOTING: Most problems arise from an incorrectly positioned tripod. If your tipi is full of wrinkles at the top but has none at the bottom you have probably spread the tripod poles out too wide. It is also likely that your Lift Pole Flap has slid down the Lift Pole. Check your mark on the Lift Pole. Move all the tripod poles in about 4" to 6" and try again. If you have a lot of wrinkles at the bottom of the tipi but the top seems OK then move the tripod poles out a few inches. Remember! The tripod poles should only be moved if all else fails. Normally all the wrinkles can be easily straightened out by simply pulling on the tipi canvas and moving the other poles in and out a few inches. If your cover is wrinkle free except for the very top, your tipi poles may be too large at the point where they all cluster together.

SECURING THE CRITTER GUARD

If you have ordered your tipi with critter guard, it is already sewn onto your tipi cover bottom. (unfortunately, we cannot retrofit it). Once your cover is staked down, secure the critter guard to the poles with a staple gun or nails, see (47), and weigh it down onto the ground from the inside. Anything heavy will do, such as bricks, logs, stones, tiles or our sand snakes, which you can fill with sand so they fit exactly between poles. Another alternative is to use heavy horse mats. Measure the distance between each pole and cut 4"-6" wide strips that fit right between the poles. Place them onto the critter guard from the inside of the tipi, (52).



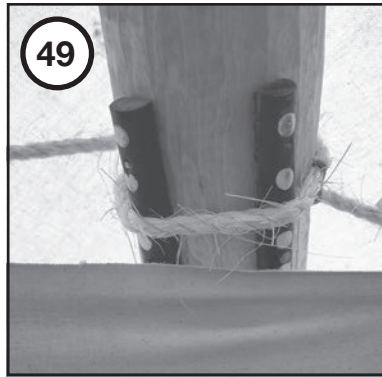
PUTTING UP THE TIPI LINER

Put your tipi liner up only after your tipi cover is put up wrinkle free. Liners for all size tipis always come in three sections. Each section has a certain number of panels, e.g. 12ft: 3-4-3, 14ft: 3-3-3, 16ft: 3-4-3, 18ft: 4-4-4, 20ft: 4-6-4, 22ft: 4-6-4, 24ft: 6-6-6, 26ft: 6-8-6. - Notice that the biggest section always goes in the back. Hang this section first, then hang the two side sections.

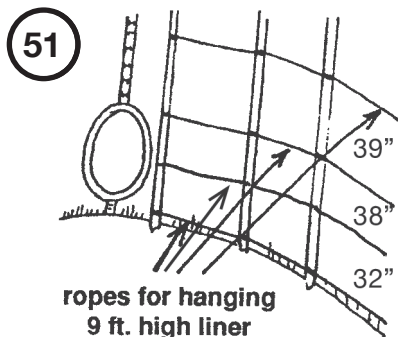
INSTALLING THE LINER ROPE

To hang the liner, you will need to install the liner rope first. Put a continuous rope around each tipi pole, starting at one door pole and ending at the other door pole. You will need 3 horizontal lines for a 6ft liner, 4 horizontal lines for a 9ft liner. An alternative to wrapping the liner rope around each pole is to drill eye screws into each pole, off center, see (48). Pull the rope very taut from pole to pole as you go around but do not pull so hard that you move the poles. We suggest putting a 1/2" to 3/4" electrical staple in every other pole to keep the rope from sliding up or down, or losing its tension.

If you choose to wrap your liner rope around the poles instead of using eye screws, we suggest that you insert two small dowels, small sticks or nails underneath the liner rope at every pole on the top, as a rain channel, see (49). If you wrap your liner rope around each pole it will cause a tight cover to bulge and stretch, as seen in (50). These stress points can weaken the canvas, especially in high wind areas where the canvas is moved a lot. This is not necessary if you have a raincap or interior raincatcher or if you are in an area with little rain.



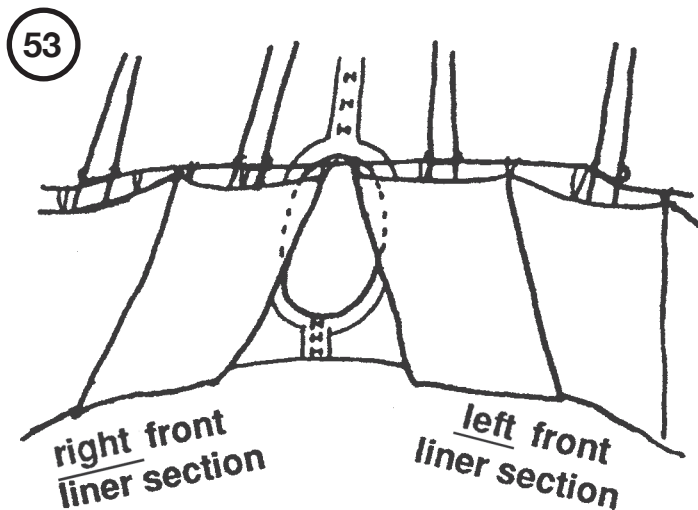
Use the 50' long 1/4" sisal rope for your liner ropes. Attempt to place the bottom rope as low to the ground as you can, see (52). Drilling the holes for the eye screws might be challenging so close to the ground, so you might opt to wrap the rope around the poles for the bottom rope, then use eye screws for the middle and top ropes. Once the bottom rope is in place, mark every pole at 32" up for the middle rope and at an additional distance of 39" up for the top rope. For a 9ft liner, mark the second row at a 32" distance, add another line at 38" distance from the second row, then finish off with a distance of 39" for the top rope. Using these measurements, you are assuring that the liner rope will be above the line of ties at the back of the liner, which enables you to pull the liner upwards when tying it to the liner rope. Pulling the liner upwards will create a taut liner. Keep your measuring tape flat against the pole when you measure, as the angle of each pole varies.



HANGING THE LINER

Find the center section of your liner. If you have a painted liner, it is the liner section that is painted all the way from left to right. The side sections of your liner have an unpainted panel that is the one that gets wrapped around the door poles. If one of your three liner sections is longer than the other two, then this is the section you begin with. Lay it down on the tipi floor and center it at the back middle with the bottom liner ties up against the bottom liner rope. Start at or close to the lift pole and work your way outwards. Pull the bottom of the liner gently from tie to tie to keep the canvas smooth and wrinkle free. Do not tie the liner ties to the tipi poles even though some may align directly in front of a pole. When the bottom is finished, do the same process for the middle and top ties.

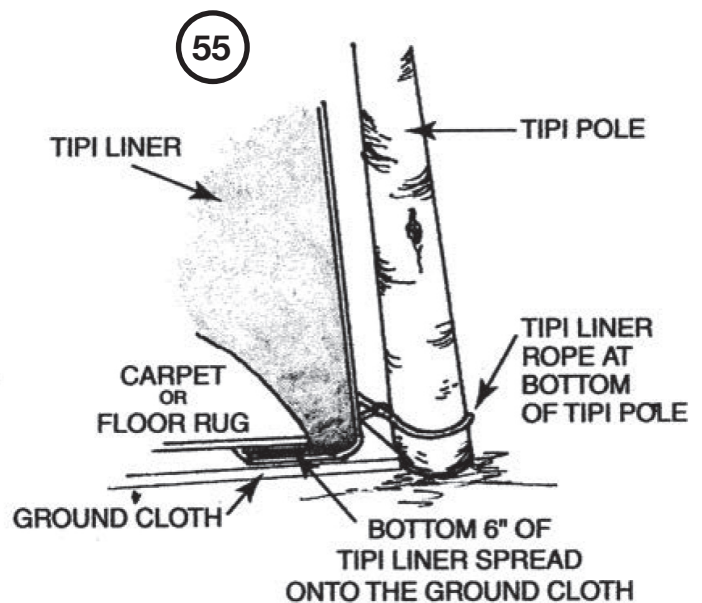
Once the back section is up, smooth out any wrinkles by sliding the ties outward on the rope. Hang the remaining two sections in the same manner, making sure that the edges of the liner sections are velcroed together to create a continuous interior wall around the tipi. When you are finished, the left front section and the right front section should look similar to (53), with excess liner fabric on both sides of the door poles.



This excess can be used to hang in front of the door opening in the winter, or just wrap it around both poles by the door, to give it a nice finished look, see (54). Use an utility knife to cut a small slit into the liner fabric if you need to tie the door flap or the door snake to the poles.

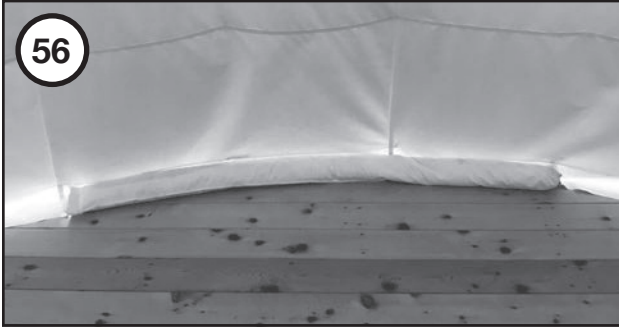
SEALING THE LINER

It is very important to seal the area where the liner meets the tipi floor. If you plan on having a carpet as your flooring, wedge the 6" liner lip between your ground cloth (floor moisture barrier) and the carpet, see (55). If your floor solution is a deck, a concrete pad, a tile floor, gravel or the ground, then you will want to weigh this 6" lip down. You can use bricks, stones, tiles or logs. We offer sand snakes, 6 ft long, narrow sand bags, that you can fill with sand.



SAND SNAKES AND DOOR SNAKES

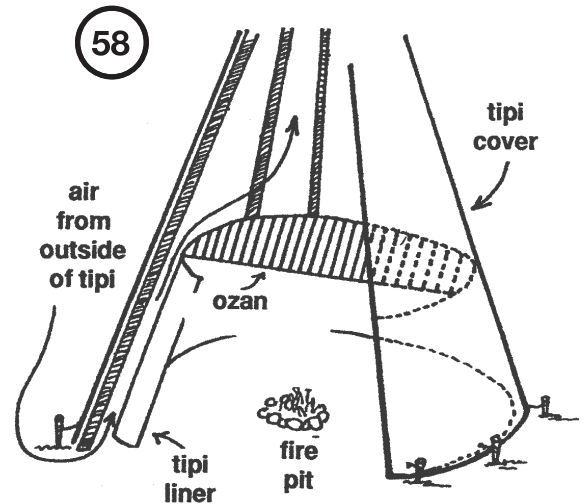
Our sand snakes are 6ft long tubes made out of our heavy Sunforger treated cover fabric. They have a sturdy velcro closure and when they are filled with sand, they weight around 30 lbs. You will need to purchase the sand (or gather it at the beach) and a little shovel to fill each tube. Close the velcro tightly and place the snakes on top of the 6" liner lip, see (56). To cover the gap beneath the door entrance, you can use our door snake. It is a 3ft sand snake with an additional fabric flap that fits right between the two door poles, see (57).



PUTTING UP THE TIPI OZAN

The ozan is an interior ceiling that helps trap the heat for winter living and catches water drips that drip from the poles in the back. Our ozan extends about 1/3 of the way into the tipi space at the height of the liner. It should not extend so far into the tipi that it traps smoke underneath it from an open fire, see (58) and (59).

Begin your set up by using the ties on the ozan to tie the center of the ozan arc to the liner rope at the very center back of the tipi. Do not concern yourself with the 6" extra fabric lip at this moment. Tie all the ties to the liner rope around the back circumference of the tipi, sliding the ties along the liner rope to assure a smooth, snug fit.



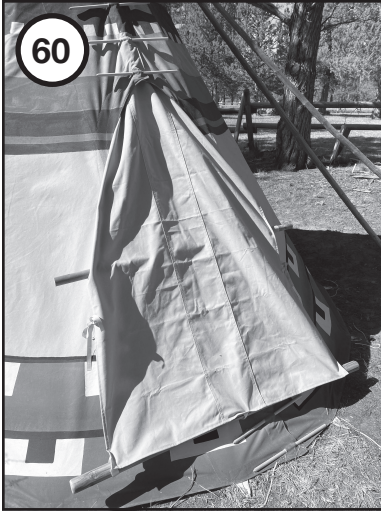
The extra 6" of fabric beyond the ozan ties are meant to drape over the liner rope and cover the gap between the liner rope and the liner. These flaps should drop behind the liner. To customize this ozan function, cut the 6" flap right at the center of each pole, so both sides drape around the pole. Use a scissor or knife to cut into the fabric, the fabric will not fray or rip further.



To hang the front of the ozan, run a long rope from a pole on the left side through the tie loop at the center front of the ozan and back to a pole on the right side. Your tie points on the tipi poles must be high enough to create a slight backward angle. If the ozan is taut and sloped, small amounts of rain water will run towards the back and behind the liner.

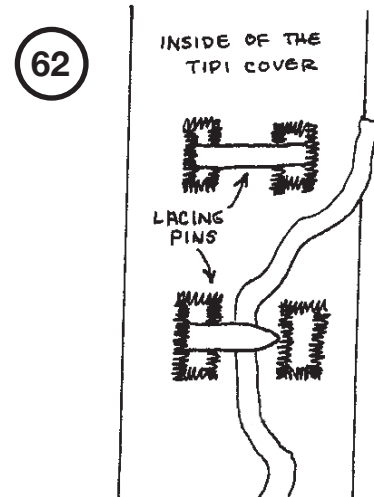
THE NOMADICS DOOR FLAP

We designed this door flap after many experiences with deep snow, heavy rains and coastal storms. The top part of the door flap passes up *underneath* the top of the tipi door hole and is tied up *inside* the tipi. The lower part of the door flap is tied to the outside of the tipi. This creates a shingle effect so rain does not run down the front of the tipi and underneath the flap into the tipi (which will happen if you tie your door flap on the outside lacing pin).



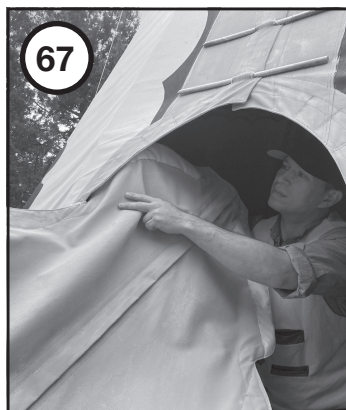
To give the door flap more rigidity, we have sewn two loops half way up on the inside, which can be used to attach a stick, log or dowel that can rest on both door poles when the door is closed, see (60). If the loops are too big for your dowel, just twist them once. You will find additional ribbons and loops on the door, so you can customize your preferred door flap look. Our preferred door flap mechanism is to create a right hand handle on the outside, see (64) and (65)

To mount the traditional model door flap, start with attaching the center top ribbon to the first or second lacing pin inside the tipi (62). Use a zip tie to create a ring if it is too difficult to thread the ribbon underneath the lacing pin. Then tie the top left and top right ribbons to the poles. Push the door flap towards the outside and tie the left side to the peg loop on the cover. Use a rope or string to tie the left bottom loop to one of the peg loops on the ground, see (63). Then attach a stick as a handle on the right side, see (64) and (65). If you leave the tipi for an extended time, you can use a carabiner or rope to connect the center bottom loop of the door flap to the lacing pin below the door hole.



THE NOMADICS ZIPPER DOOR

The Nomadics Zipper Door is our own invention and is patented under Patent US D948,748 S. It is part of our Campground Model and will only work in combination with our Campground Cover. The Nomadics Campground Tipi Cover has velcro on both sides of the door opening outside as well as velcro on the inside. The Zipper Door is permanently attached to the cover with velcro at the time during set up. After the set up, the zipper, not the velcro, should be used to open and close the door. This is important so that the velcro mechanism is not weakened over time due to frequent use.



To install your Zipper Door, your tipi cover must be set up, but **NOT** fully staked down. The door pole and the #1 pole need to be in their final positions, right next to the door hole opening, with only the front peg loops staked down. Take the closed Zipper Door and move the upper part inwards. This is best done with two people, see (66). Start attaching the velcro hook band of the upper left door side to the velcro loop band on the left side of the cover, see (67). Attach it all the way down to the bottom and repeat on the right side, as seen in (68).

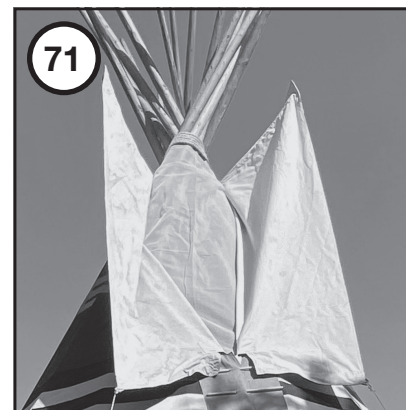
Open the zipper and step inside, see (69) and attach the upper inner zipper door part to the velcro loop band above the door. Use a zip tie to make a loop around the inside of the second pin above the door to tie the ribbon onto the door in order to give it a snug fit. Tipis up to size 18ft come with a small Zipper Door, seen in (66-69), tipis 20ft and larger have the big Zipper Door, as seen in (70).



Your Zipper Door has D-rings on both sides, which correspond to the peg loops on the cover. Connect the two (with a carabiner, rope or keychain ring), so no one attempts to open the door by pulling on the velcro.

THE MOSQUITO GUARD

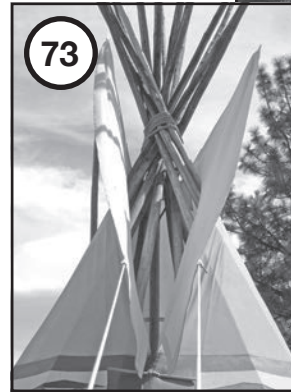
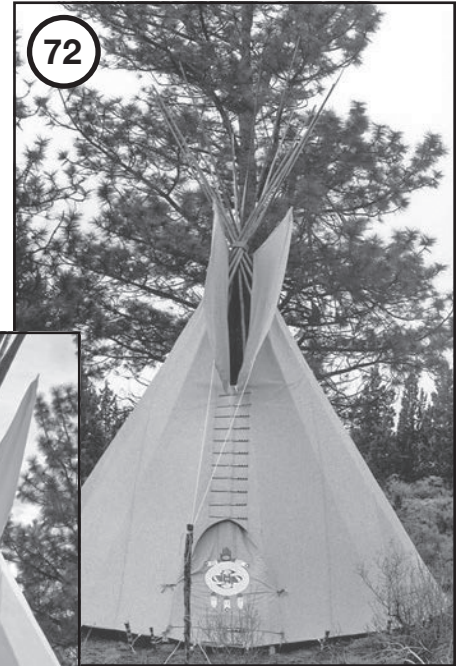
The Mosquito Guard is a sturdy netting that is sewn onto the inside of the right smoke flap. It has ribbons attached to it so you can maneuver it around the outside of the poles and wedge it in between the poles and the cover. This will give it a snug fit. Once you pulled the Mosquito Guard in place clockwise around the poles, tie the ribbons to a pole.



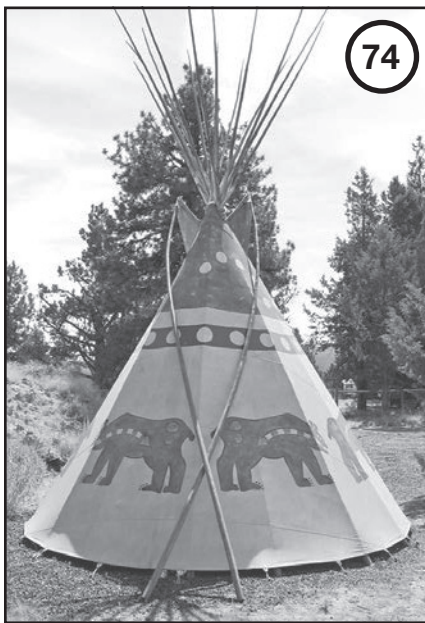
USING YOUR SMOKE FLAPS

The smoke flaps are essential in eliminating smoke from the tipi. If properly used there will be no smoke in your tipi. By creating a partial vacuum between the two smoke flaps, smoke is encouraged to rise to the top of the tipi cone. As smoke reaches the top of this partial vacuum between the two smoke flaps the smoke is quickly sucked out of the tipi. It is essential that the smoke flaps *always* be *angled down wind*. The following photos assume that your tipi door hole is facing east. The prevailing winds are usually from the west and south. It is always best to face the tipi to the east because of these prevailing west winds.

(72) and (73) show the smoke flaps set for a west wind. Since the tipi door is facing east, the wind is blowing from directly behind the tipi. Your smoke flaps will probably be in this position most of the time. Notice that the right smoke flap (as you look at the photo) is angled out to the right just a bit. This compensates for any occasional change of wind direction from the south or southwest.

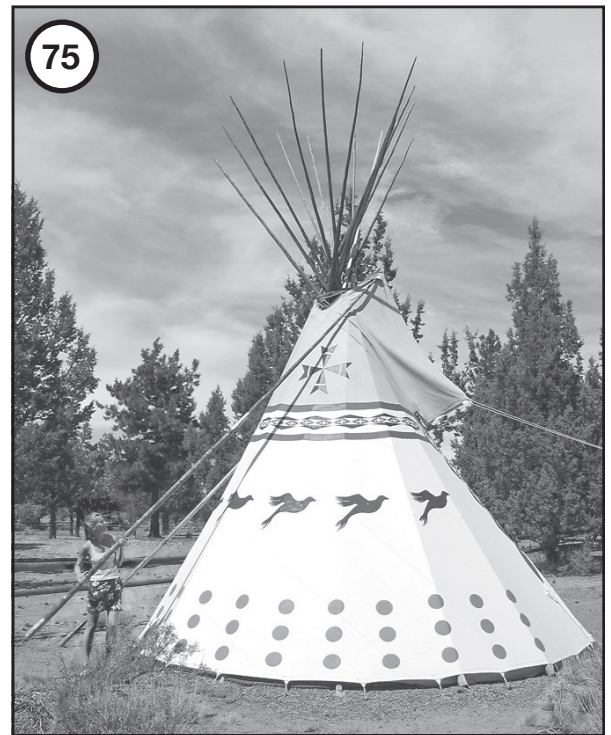


Notice that the smoke flap lines help keep the smoke flaps taut, by securing them to a stake in front of the tipi. See 75

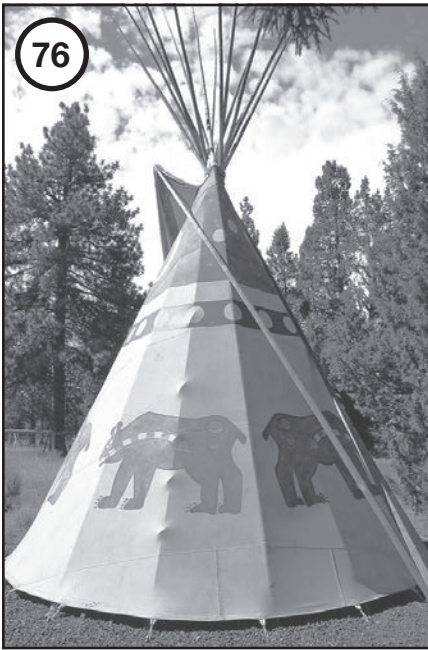


With the smoke flaps set in this position your smoke flap poles will appear as in (74) as seen from behind the tipi. Notice that the poles are crossed and that they have a slight bow in them as they pass around the tipi. Using small, limber poles for your smoke flap poles help keep a gentle tension on the smoke flap.

(75) shows how to change the setting of the smoke flaps. By moving the butt of the smoke pole the smoke flap will change direction. Do not allow the pole to slip out of the smoke flap pocket when maneuvering the smoke flap.



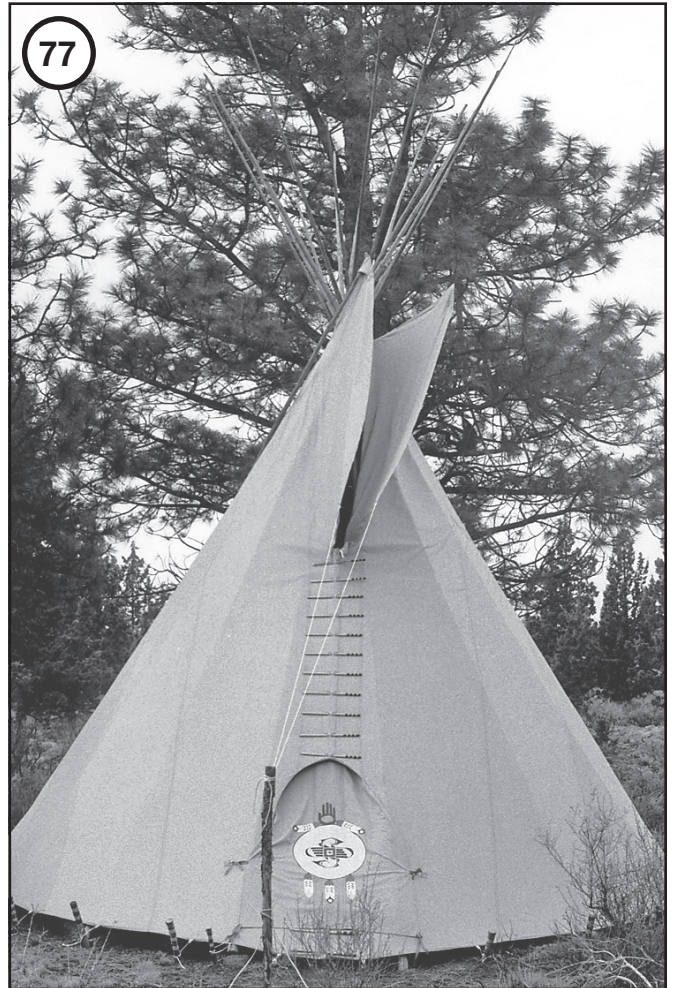
By moving the smoke poles to the positions in (76) the smoke flaps will be set for a south or southwest wind. This is a very common setting. Notice that the butts of the smoke flap poles are only about 2 ft. from the edge of the tipi. If the smoke poles are too long and the pole butts cannot be brought near the tipi edge then they will not fit properly in the smoke flaps and wrinkles will result in the smoke flaps. Your smoke flaps should always be kept taut as in (72) and (77). When the poles are positioned as in (76) the smoke flaps are set as in (77).



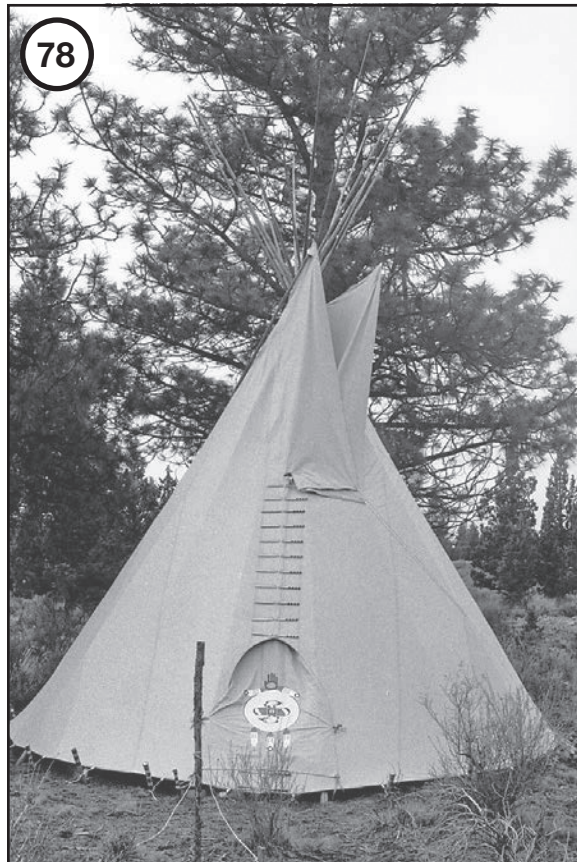
These flaps (77) are now in the proper position for a wind blowing from the southwest. This photo gives you a good view of how the smoke flaps eliminate smoke from the tipi. As the wind blows across the opening of the smoke flaps air is drawn out from between the two flaps. This creates a relative absence of air in this area. Air from the inside the tipi then moves upward to fill the space between the flaps and is then sucked on out through the smoke flaps. This is the primary way in which smoke is eliminated from the tipi.

This also demonstrates how the smoke flaps prevent rain from coming in the smoke hole. Assume rain is coming from the left to right as in (77). The left smoke flap is simply angled over the smoke hole to whatever extent is necessary to prevent rain from coming in the smoke hole.

The right hand smoke flap is then angled farther to the right to maintain an adequate opening for smoke to go out. Most major storms come from the southwest. If winds get too strong you may want to tie the smoke flap lines along the north side of the tipi to prevent the lower portion of the smoke flaps from being whipped and torn by strong winds, see (78). Notice that an adequate smoke hole opening still remains. For added security during storms tie your tripod rope to a long stake



driven deep into the ground just behind the fire pit, see (79).



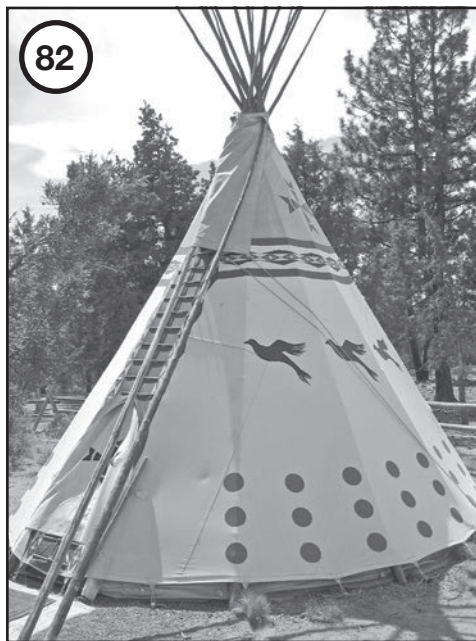
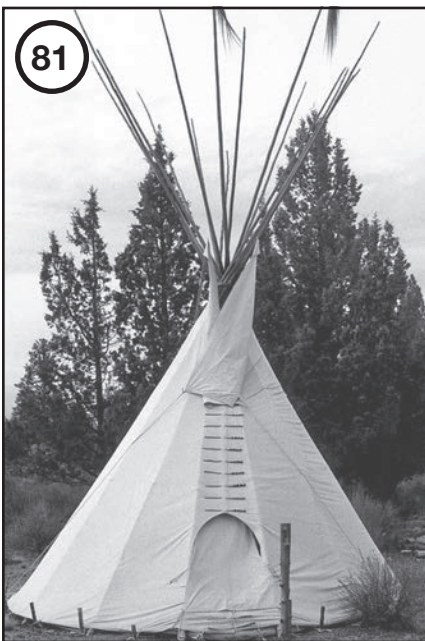
This is the same 45 ft. rope that you used to wrap around your tipi poles to hold them together. This is also a good idea if you are leaving your tipi for a few days. If you live in coastal areas or in areas that receive strong blasting wind storms then a few additional guy wires are a good idea, see (80). Tie 1/2" rope around the cluster of poles and stake it to the ground 10 or 20 ft from the tipi facing into the wind direction.

If your tipi is staked down well there is virtually no chance of it being blown over. The anchor rope and the guy wires are necessary for extreme circumstances only.

Occasionally the wind may shift and blow from the east. This is the only time smoke elimination can be a problem. (81) shows how to set your smoke flaps for an east wind. The smoke flap lines are tied around the opposite sides of the tipi. As the wind blows directed into the flaps it is directed upward across the top of the crossed flaps. This creates the partial vacuum necessary for good smoke elimination from the lodge. If you are leaving home for a few days you will want to close the tipi completely as in (82) and (83).



Walk your smoke poles around to the front of the tipi and lay them on top of the smoke flaps. Again, do not let the smoke pole slip out of the smoke flap pocket as you are maneuvering the poles. Notice that the left flap goes on top of the right flap – just in case a south wind kicks up while you are gone. Notice the smoke flap lines tied to a tent stake on the right side of the tipi.



DEALING WITH RAIN



The tipi is a unique structure that allows you to be in nature while remaining sheltered from the weather. The opening at the top is necessary to build a fire inside of your tipi and to ventilate it during hot days, but it also allows rain to come in. Most of the time rain can be dealt with by simply maneuvering the smoke flaps (see page 20-22). If rain runs down the poles, it may start dripping from the cover rope or from the inside of the poles and along the pinning face or through the door opening. Smoothly sanded and oiled poles will help to eliminate most of the dripping as the rain runs down the poles, behind the liner and onto the ground. Be sure to keep any ropes or hooks away from the inside facing part of the poles, see (49). A gravel walkway leading from the door to the fire pit will help catch water running down the front and will keep your tipi clean from dirt that you might otherwise track inside, see (84).

INSTALLING THE EXTERIOR RAIN CAP

If you want to avoid any rain from coming into your tipi, we suggest a Rain Cap that can be placed on top of the poles. The shorter the poles, the easier it is to drape the Rain Cap around them. If you are planning on installing a Rain Cap, we suggest that you cut your poles to a length that is about 3ft longer than your stated tipi size. Round off the tips or cover the tips with old tennis balls, so the Rain Cap can slide smoothly over the poles. Cut the provided rope into 8 equal sections and attach them to the loops on the Rain Cap.



To install the Rain Cap, drape it around your tripod, see (85) and lift it up as you raise the tripod. Continue the set up as normal as shown in (86). If your tipi is already set up, you can use the smoke flap poles or an extension pole to hoist the cap over the tips of the poles.

Flare out the cap as much as possible and tie the ropes to trees, (88), and railings (103) or stake them into the ground. **DO NOT** attach the anchor ropes to the tipi peg loops, as high winds could turn your Rain Cap into a parachute and cause the whole tipi structure to collapse.

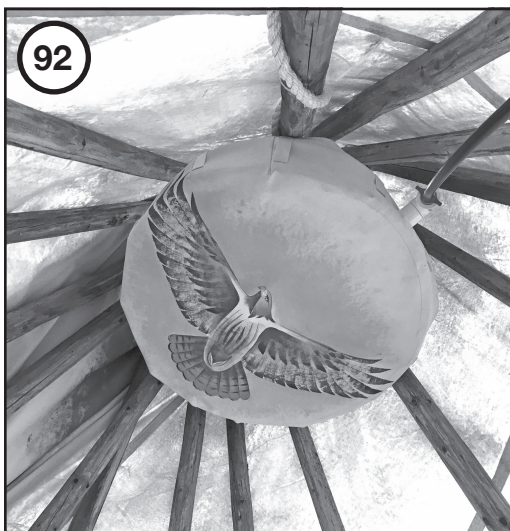
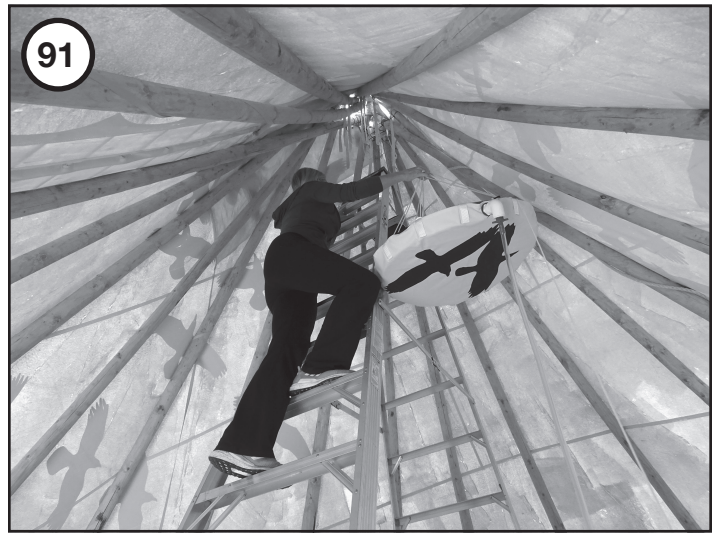
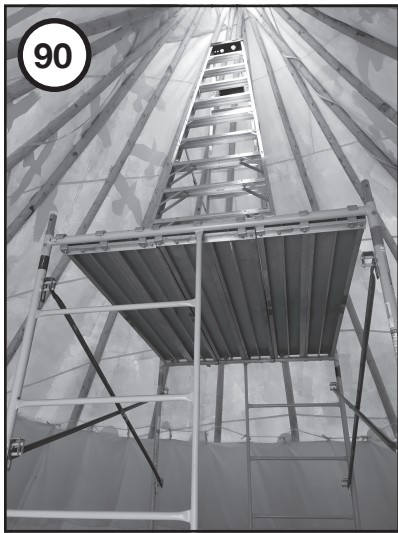


INSTALLING THE INTERIOR RAIN CATCHER

The Nomadics interior Rain Catcher is our own adaptation from creative solutions that seasoned tipi dwellers shared with us. It consists of a 28" plastic drip pan that has a spout to drain water. We have engineered a secondary pan out of our canvas with a slanted hanging mechanism (89), which allows you to attach the Rain Catcher right underneath the tripod. In order to install it, you will need a long ladder to reach the interior top of your tipi. For 22ft+ tipis, we suggest you rent a 6ft scaffolding that then can hold an A frame ladder, see (90). Before you carry your Rain Catcher up the ladder, connect the clear plastic drip tube to the spout of the plastic pan.

In order to deviate as much rain water as possible from the poles into the pan, we are still experimenting with different solutions such as using zip ties, cotton rope, pipe cleaners or velcro spouts. Whatever solution you come up with or we include with your Rain Catcher, use this to wrap it tightly around each pole, just underneath

the tripod cluster. Now carry your Rain Catcher up the ladder and hook it onto the cover rope. If the cover rope is too tight, just tie a rope from one pole to another and hang the Rain Catcher that way. Be aware of the downwards slant that should guide the water towards the spout. Use zip ties to attach the clear drip tube to a nearby pole and check again that the downward slant points directly to the spout. If necessary, undo the black electric tape and adjust the hanging mechanism so it has a definite angle, steep enough to guide the water towards the spout. Using the zip ties, guide the drip tube down the pole, behind the liner and outside the tipi.

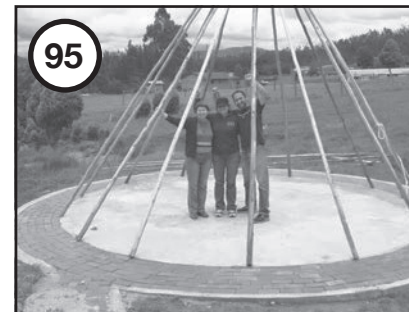
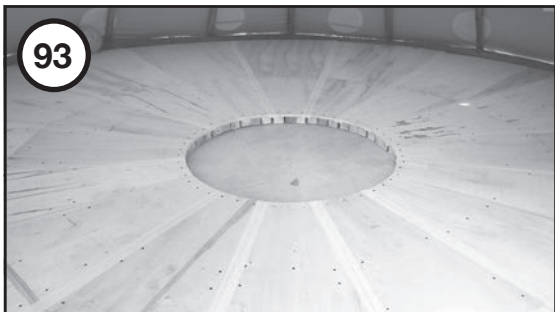


For the Rain Catcher to work, your smoke flaps need to be closed tightly, **see (82) and (83)**. Also be aware of the gap above the end of the pinning face. This gap should be covered by the smoke flaps, otherwise rain can come in through there. We recommend that you inspect the inside of the drip pan once a year and remove any debris that might clog up the water spout.

An ozan is an additional item that you can install to protect your bedding area from any drips, **see (59)**. If you leave your tipi for a while, you might also want to put painters plastic or a plastic tarp on top of your bedding or furniture.

FLOOR SOLUTIONS

There are many ways to create a tipi floor. If you do not want to leave the ground as it is, you can choose wood (93), stone or tile (94), brick or concrete (95), gravel or a tarp and a carpet (96).



A very cozy floor solution is to create a 3" deep gravel pit out of 3/4" minus driveway gravel, about 2 ft wider than the stated size of the tipi. Set your poles up on this surface, then spread out our ground cover, which is a 16 mill round shaped PE tarp, see (96).

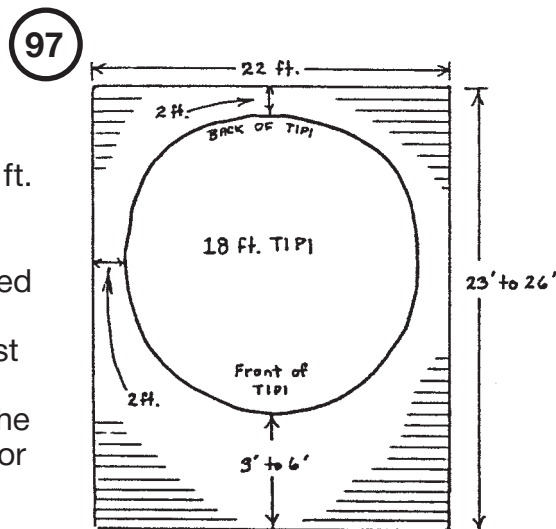


Add wall to wall carpet on top of it, bring in large furniture, then set up your tipi cover. Stake the tipi cover down, push out the poles and install the liner. Once you are happy with the final shape of your tipi, you can use a utility knife or scissors to cut the excess tarp off of your ground cover. You can also cut a 3ft hole into the tarp and the carpet in order to create an open fire pit. Surround it with stones or bricks to finish it off. We also offer beautiful woolen rugs and pillows that can be placed on top of the carpet (59) and (111).

BUILDING A TIPI DECK

The deck should be larger than the tipi. (97) uses an 18 ft. tipi as an example. The deck should be 2 ft. larger than the tipi on the sides and at the back of the tipi. You should allow a 3 to 6 ft. "front porch" in front of the door hole.

In dry climates, pressure treated 2x4 or 2x6 boards can be used as floor joist and be placed directly on the ground. In damp climates or for permanent locations it is best to elevate the joist using concrete blocks or concrete pads (99). The supporting beams under the joist should be 4x4 or 4x6 depending upon the distance between concrete supports (100). Consult a builder for suggestions on joist size and joist spacing ratios.



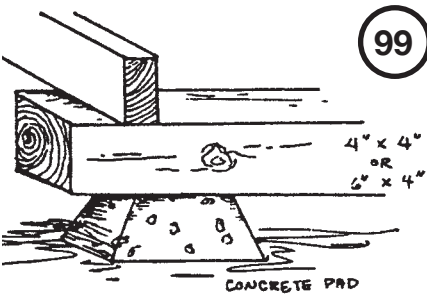


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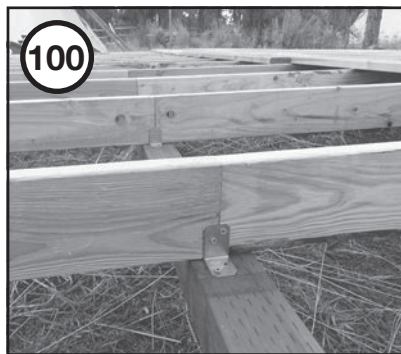
You will need to cover the joist with plywood or 1" or 2" decking as in (98). Decking thickness depends upon the distance between joists.

The deck must slope outward from the middle so that rain will run off of the deck, as seen in (101). Only a slight outward slope is necessary. The surface of the deck should slope down 1/8" for every 1 ft. of horizontal distance.

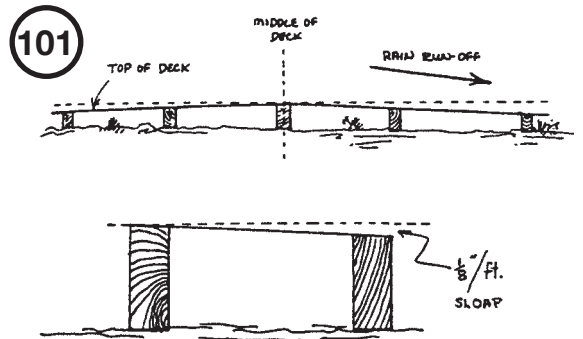
To prevent the tipi poles from sliding on the deck, place wooden stop-blocks against each pole. Nail the block into the deck once the final pole position has been established.



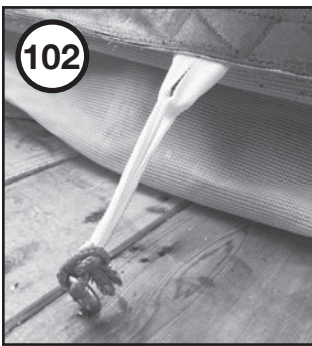
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100



101



102

To secure the tipi to the deck, use heavy eye screws as anchor points, see (102). Loop the tie cord through the peg loops as shown on page 14 (42). Then pull the canvas down and out away from the poles and mark where the eye screw should be, about 4" from the peg loop. Let go of the canvas and drill a pilot hole, then screw the eye screw firmly into the deck. Repeat this procedure one at a time, starting at the front of the tipi and move towards the back side, doing both sides at once. Continue as described on page 13-14.



103



104

CARE OF YOUR TIPI COVER

The tipi cover is the outer skin that is exposed to the environment and it is therefore the first item that will show signs of wear. We make our tipis out of 100% organically grown cotton because it provides a natural feel, breath-ability, translucency and authenticity. To help prevent the slow weakening of the cotton fiber, all our cotton fabrics are treated with a “Sunforger®” treatment, which is a patented protective finish that is the best treatment available for commercial fabrics. All reputable awning, tent and tipi manufacturers are using fabrics treated with the Sunforger® finish. While the Sunforger® treatment includes mold, mildew and fungi inhibitors, the effect is only temporarily and only affects the most commonly found species of mold and mildew spores in the Continental United States. You will find a more detailed explanation of the limitations of this protective canvas treatment on our website www.tipi.com / Care of your tipi.

There is a direct relationship between the way you care for your tipi and the years of enjoyment you will get out of it. With excellent care, you can get five to eight years or more out of your tipi cover. By contrast, if you set your tipi up and only stay in it a few weekends in the summer and fall and then come back to it in the spring, you might find that after one or two years, it looks old and worn. The main factors that contribute to premature aging of your tipi cover are:

1) High elevation (above 4000 ft.) and other areas with high UV radiation

Locations above 4000 ft. in elevation and places with a depleting ozone layer may have strong UV radiation that affects the tipi fabric. Your canvas could break down after 1-3 years, initially on the south side. If you are in high elevation, a shady location will help prevent the premature breakdown. If you cannot avoid ‘baking’ your cover in the sun, treat your canvas once a year with a UV protectant like Ray Bloc.

2) Wet/humid or hot/humid climates where mold is a known issue

Mold and mildew can form on your fabric within only a few weeks despite the Sunforger® treatment on the canvas, as it only protects against the most common mold spores known in the USA. If mold and mildew is a known issue in your area, use No More Mildew even before you set your tipi up for the first time, see (105).



3) Prolonged rainfall or dampness

Mold and mildew can develop if the tipi cover does not have a chance to dry out. Be sure to put an electric heater in your tipi when you get rainfall over several days, or make a fire in it. An electric or solar powered ventilator also helps move the air around, so that mold and mildew spores do not settle on the canvas. Also, cut down wet grass around the bottom of your tipi.

4) Snow pile-up on the canvas and around the bottom

After a heavy snowfall, brush off the snow, so the heaviness of it does not sag or stretch the canvas. Remove the snow around the bottom of the tipi in order to maintain the ventilation function created by the cover-liner gap. After all snow is removed from the tipi, heat it from the inside to dry out the canvas.

5) Coastal locations with high humidity, salty air and high winds

Treat your cover with a water repellent finish that will shed the water and salt off of your cover. Stake your tipi down firmly to the ground, close the smoke flaps when you expect high winds, as seen in (82), and stake the cover rope into the ground inside the tipi, as seen in (79).

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CANVAS

The size of your tipi determines the square feet of canvas you will need to treat:

12ft: 225sqft / 14ft: 310sqft / 16ft: 400sqft / 18ft: 510sqft
20ft: 630sqft / 22ft: 760sqft / 24ft: 900sqft / 26ft: 1060sqft.

Be sure to read the instructions for each product. Using a pressure spray bottle is recommended (available at home improvement or landscaping stores). Calculate 4-12 hours of drying time without exposure to rain. It is best to treat your canvas while it is on the ground. Let it dry thoroughly while you prepare the pins and widen the lacing pin holes, prepping the staking cord and putting up the pole structure. If your tipi is already up, use a ladder to reach the upper parts. However, treating the first 3ft. at the bottom is the most important area.



The following products have been recommended by our customers:

Protecting the Fabric:

AllerTech® No More Mildew
for mold and mildew protection
www.natlallergy.com

Star brite® Water-Based Waterproofing
for protection against UV
www.starbrite.com

Aqua-Tite® Green Repellent
for renewing the water repellency
www.sailrite.com

303® Marine Fabric Guard
for protection against UV, bird stains
www.goldeagle.com

Cleaning the Fabric:

30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner
www.30secondscleaners.com

Wet&Forget Concentrate
for use in rainy areas
www.wetandforget.com

AllerTech® NAS-12
All Purpose Cleaning Solution
www.natlallergy.com



Please review our page 'Care of Your Tipi' on www.tipi.com for further information and videos.

Due to the unpredictable nature of environmental influences, we cannot guarantee our fabrics against mold and mildew formation or breakdown due to excessive ultraviolet radiation.

AT HOME IN THE TIPI

Tipi living is very different than having a tipi as a place to gather with friends or to disappear into your own quiet world for a day. When living in a tipi (110), you have to think about kitchen, storage, bathroom and continuous heating, to name a few. Check out our Tips and Tricks in our online photo gallery at www.tipi.com/Gallery.



THE OPEN FIRE

The fire pit should be located underneath the smoke hole. This location is not the very center of the tipi. It is more toward the door hole of the tipi. In an 18 ft. tipi a 3 ft. diameter fire ring would sit 8 ft. from the back but only 7 ft. from the front. To locate the correct spot for your fire pit or stove, stand in the front middle of your tipi and look up through the smoke hole. Move until you are standing directly beneath the center of the smoke hole opening. This is the center of your fire pit. It is a good idea to line your fire pit with fire bricks or stone. It will radiate more heat after the evening fire goes out and help prevent the fire pit from burning itself a larger area over time. Stumps around the fire pit are handy counters and pot stands (110). The open fire must be tended constantly. The smaller size wood you use the more flame your fire will have and thus the less smoke it will give off. Pine is one of the smokiest woods. Green wood will smoke more than dry wood. So will rotten wood. Although it will vary by year and location, you will probably need at least 3 cords of wood each winter. We stash our wood just to the left of the door as you walk into the tipi.

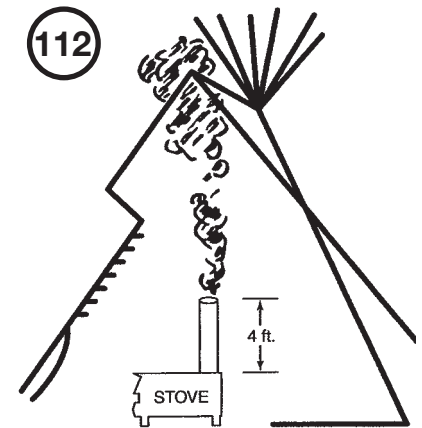
Eliminating smoke from the fire is partly facilitated by keeping a small, hot fire that is all flames. This is best accomplished by using small pieces of wood (1" to 2" in diameter) and selecting the correct wood to burn as mentioned above. But the primary way to eliminate smoke from the lodge is accomplished in 3 different ways:

1. Use of the smoke flaps (explained earlier).
2. Maintaining constant air flow under the tipi cover, behind the liner, and up and out the top of the tipi, see 58.
3. Use your door hole as an air vent. By simply pulling the door cover back just a few inches, air will flow toward the fire, rise with the warm air and help carry smoke upward. An opening of 4" to 6" is sufficient, a larger opening will not serve as a door flue.



WOOD STOVES

As an alternative to the open fire you can use propane heaters, chimeneas, or wood stoves. If you use a wood stove with a wood stack you cannot run the smoke stack up between the smoke flaps. This is too much heat near the canvas. If you do this the canvas will dry out, become brittle and may ignite due to the excessive heat near the top of the tipi. A smoke stack in an 18ft. tipi should only be 4-5ft. high above the stove (112). This way the hot air goes up as it would from an open fire and it cools by the time it reaches the top of the tipi. All smoke stack pipes should be triple wall insulated pipe that is approved by your local building codes. Our tipis are designed for a 2-3 ft. open fire at ground level. **USE COMMON SENSE AND GOOD JUDGMENT. DO NOT BUILD AN EXCESSIVELY LARGE FIRE AND DO NOT LEAVE IT UNATTENDED.** Also do not use your tipi as a sweat lodge or to smoke meat.



During the summer you may want to remove the lacing pins from beneath the door hole and pull back each side (113). This makes a more convenient door opening when snow and mud are not a problem.

SET UP MISTAKES

The most common set up mistake is not to read and follow the set up instructions. The second most common mistake is to leave the set up to a self-proclaimed “expert” who feels it is not necessary to read the set up instructions.

One common oversight that new tipi owners make is forgetting to cut their smoke flap poles to the proper length. The proper length is 2 ft. longer than the stated size of your tipi. Another mistake is not using smoke flap poles at all. If the smoke flaps lay on the canvas, mold and mildew will develop very quickly in between the cover and the smoke flaps.

If your tipi gets a tear in the fabric, send us a picture to nomadics@tipi.com or call us at 1-541-389-3980 to discuss the damage, we are happy to give advice or send you fabric swatches. If needed, you can purchase fabric glue called “Tear Mender” at local fabric stores.

We would love to hear from you and your experience with your Nomadics Tipi. Please feel free to send us pictures or stories of your tipi - we can keep them to ourselves or share them on our website or social media, whatever you feel comfortable with.

It is our pleasure to be a part of this journey. We wish you many years of peace and meaningful experiences with your tipi.

Your Nomadics Crew

NOMADICS TIPI MAKERS

17665 Snow Creek Road,

Bend, Oregon 97703

(541) 389-3980

www.tipi.com

nomadics@tipi.com

