

1 Cleaning/ Care Procedures

Troop 874 has spent a great deal of money on equipment and we need help from each scout to properly maintain the equipment. At the end of each campout, Scouts will be assigned certain **equipment that must be taken home and cleaned. All equipment must be returned at the next troop meeting.**

1.1 Tent

Patrols are responsible to make sure tents are clean and in working condition. Tents sent home should be cleaned and hung out to dry **the Sunday you return.** Hang them up in the garage or basement or set them out in a yard on a sunny day. Cleaning and drying tents is extremely important to prevent mildew and to increase the usable life of the tents. **Mildew can set into a tent in as little as 24 hours,** so it is important to air out a tent immediately. Mildew can permanently damage the tent and can cause potential harm to the tent and the occupants.

Even when your tent appears to be dry after use, it is always best to assure it is completely dry before storing.

Guidelines When Taking Tents Home

- Air out the tent, fly, bags and ground sheet by hanging outside, in garage (or setting tent up in your yard).
- Clean the tent (**Never machine wash or machine dry your tent as it can destroy the fabric.**)
 - Shake out any debris from the inside of the tent.
 - Sweep out the inside of the tent.
 - If there is mud/dirt in/on the tent, clean with a damp cloth.
 - Wipe zippers with damp cloth if dirty
 - Dry tent by hanging in garage, or setting up outside.
- Make sure all the pieces are included.
 - Rain Fly
 - Tent Body
 - Tent Bag
 - Ground Cloth
 - Guy Lines
 - Stakes
 - Poles
 - Tent bags
- Make sure the parts of the tent are in operating condition.
 - Any poles missing or broken?
 - Are poles' shock cords intact? Are they frayed, and need replacement.
 - Check for holes or rips in the tent and fly. Note location and size of any findings.
 - Any other parts that need attention?
- Pack tent (**Tent parts must be completely dry.**)
 - Place the stakes in the stake bag.
 - Place poles in pole bag.
 - Place ground cloth in ground cloth bag.
 - Fold the tent in thirds, so the width is somewhat less than the length of the tent bag.
 - Fold the fly so it is the same size or smaller than the folded tent.
 - Lay out the tent on the floor. Place the fly on top of the tent.

- Roll the poles and stake bags inside of the tent and fly and place in the tent bag.
 - Report issues
 - Report any missing items or problems to the quartermaster when you return the tents or tarps.
- Turn-in the tent to Quartermaster (be sure that records are updated that you turned it in)

1.2 Patrol Box

It is the responsibility of each patrol to care for their patrol box to ensure that they are clean & complete. Patrol members cook and eat from items in the patrol box. It is in the patrols' best interest to keep it clean to avoid food-borne illnesses, mold and insects. When a patrol box is sent home it should be cleaned as soon as possible. **Thoroughly dry the patrol box, and all of its contents before sealing the lid. Mold will develop inside the patrol box if you do not complete the drying process.**

Guidelines When Taking Home

- Empty the patrol box of contents
- Thoroughly clean the inside and outside of the box.
- Thoroughly dry the inside of the box to avoid mold growth.
- Clean all contents of the patrol box.
 - Dishes, cups, and utensils can go in the dishwasher or be hand washed with mild dishwashing soap.
 - Pots and pans must be scrubbed with soap pad or scouring sponges.
 - Stove must be cleaned with warm water. Thoroughly remove grease from all parts of stove.
 - Machine wash and dry any dish towels and pot holders.
- **Thoroughly dry ALL contents of the patrol box to avoid mold growth.**
- Repair or note any damage.
- Use the Patrol Box Inventory to make sure all equipment is present, clean and in good working order.
- Repack items in patrol box.
- Leave lid to patrol box loosely open if possible to prevent any mold.
- Note any missing items or problems to the quartermaster when you return the equipment.

1.3 Dutch Oven

Guidelines When Taking Home

- There are many sources on the internet describing Dutch oven maintenance.
- Never use soap, scouring pads, Brillo pads or abrasive cleaners on Dutch ovens.
- Clean with hot water to remove all food traces. Avoid using soap because it breaks down the coating.
- Completely dry inside and outside of Dutch oven. You may place the Dutch oven in a preheated oven range to "heat dry" the metal.
- When dry, rub 1 TLBS of vegetable oil along the inside of the Dutch oven and lid.
- Wipe excess oil using a clean rag making sure there are no puddles of oil.
- Place a clean paper towel inside the Dutch oven.

1.4 Dining Fly

Guidelines When Taking Home

- Air out the tarp and bag by hanging outside, in garage (or setting up in your yard).
- Clean the tarp (**Never machine wash or machine dry as it can destroy the fabric.**)
 - Shake out the tarp.
- If there is mud/dirt on the fabric of the tarp, clean with a damp cloth.
- Hang tarp out to dry.
- If there is mud/dirt on the poles, clean with a damp cloth.
- After the tarp is completely dry and fold (or roll). Tie with one of the guy ropes.

1.5 Water Cooler/Jug

Water Coolers and Water Jugs need to be cleaned regularly to avoid musty odors, unpleasant taste, mold and in some cases illness. To keep the jugs and coolers fresh-smelling and sanitary, clean them after every use and before you store them.

Guidelines When Taking Home

- Wash the inside and outside of the cooler or water jug with warm soapy water.
- Use a stiff scrub brush to remove any dirt on the lid or body of the cooler/water jug.
- Rinse inside of the cooler several times. After each time, sniff the inside. If it still smells soapy, rinse it again.
- Fill container full with cool water, and then add small amount of bleach. (Half of capful).
CAUTION: Use adult supervision with the bleach. Besides ruining clothes, it is poisonous and can burn your skin and eyes.
- Let container sit for an hour.
- Carefully pour out the bleach solution, using the spout.
- Rinse the inside of the container several times.
- Thoroughly dry the container with a clean towel and allow to air dry for a few hours, with the lids open/off.
- After completely dry, close lids and return the item