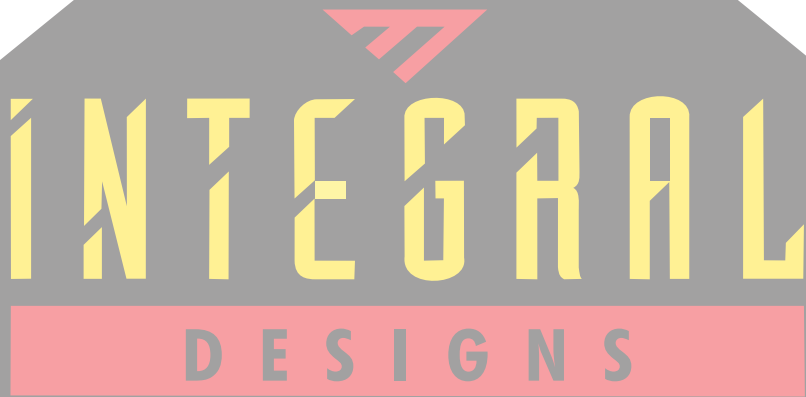


INTEGRAL DESIGNS

TENT OWNERS MANUAL



Made in Canada
Fait au Canada



Integral Designs Tent Manual



The MK series of tents is the result of the meeting of mountaineering passion and engineering skill. These tents have a clean functional design and well thought out details. Ease of set-up, light weight and ability to withstand extreme weather are key design requirements. MK tents have been used on dozens of expeditions to some of the most inhospitable places on the planet.

This tent manual applies to the following tents.

- M K L i t e
- M K 1 X L
- M K 3
- Y U K O N

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

PROTECTING THE TENT FROM UV

Ultraviolet damage is the single largest hazard your tent faces in its lifetime. Fabrics should not be exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time as this will eventually result in colour fading and fabric failure. If extended exposure is unavoidable, cover the entire tent with a tarp or sheet of nylon.

FOOD IN TENTS

Mop up spills promptly with water. Many foods particularly acidic ones like fruit juices, can weaken synthetic fabrics over time. In any case, it is best not to eat and store foods in your tent to avoid attracting animals, which may damage your tent and /or endanger you safety.

CLEANING

Cleaning is easiest when the tent is set up. Hand wash with warm water, using a sponge and mild, non-detergent soap. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue. Do not dry-clean, machine wash or machine dry. Consider leaving stubborn stains (i.e. Oil) in place and dusting them with cornstarch or baby powder to prevent transfer to other areas of the tent in storage.

After cleaning, a spray-on water repellent designed for synthetic fabric should be applied to the outer surface if the water repellency has been compromised. This is apparent when water droplets no longer bead up on the fabric and the fabric “wets out”.

If the poles are exposed to salt water, rinse them in fresh water and allow them to dry thoroughly before storing. While aluminum does not rust, it can become brittle over time through unseen corrosion.

LUBRICATING THE POLES

Occasionally apply a light coating of silicone-based lubricant to the tent pole connections (put a little on the tent zippers at the same time). If the poles are used exclusively in marine environments, treat them more frequently.

STORING YOUR TENT

It is essential to dry the tent and poles completely before storage to avoid the irreversible consequences of mildew (mold growth) or hidden pole corrosion. Store the tent rolled in its stuff sac in cool, dry place out of direct sunlight.

Mildewy tents can be cleaned as described above, but there is no way to remove the dark stains without damaging the fabric. Mildew will probably take some time to affect the waterproof coatings, so the tent may be usable even if it's not pretty.

SEAM SEALING

Your Integral Designs tent comes complete with factory taped waterproof seams and a tube of Seam Grip®.

The connection of weather flaps, peaks and vents which cover zipper doors, hood stiffeners or bug net cannot be machine taped between the inside of the cover and the outside of the shelter body. You may wish to apply Seam Grip® to the outside of the sewn seam to seal these seams. This will ensure that no water leaks into the shelter through the zipper, door, vent or bugnet. Apply Seam Grip® only to areas where thread or webbing passes through or around seam tape. This includes the outside stitching and seams on the outside of the roof where the Velcro pole loops are sewn to the inside.

REPAIRING YOUR TENT

FABRIC TEARS

Watertight repairs to rips can be made with seam sealant such as McNett Freesole™, Aquaseal™, or Seam Grip™. For tears shorter than 1.5cm (1/2"), apply duct tape to one side and sealant to the other. On tears longer than 1.5cm, apply duct tape to one side and on the other side, place a patch of no-see-um netting extending about 6-12mm (1/4-1/2") beyond the edges of the tear. Patches with rounded, rather than square, edges are less likely to peel away. Cover the patch thoroughly in sealant. On either small or large repairs, the duct tape may be removed once the sealant is completely dry.

For longer trips, an expedition sewing kit and extra fabric, webbing, a spare pole section, and tent pole shock cord are recommended.

BROKEN POLES

Consider bringing a pole repair sleeve along on all trips. In the event of a break, you can slip the slightly oversized pole repair sleeve over the end of a pole. Slide the repair sleeve along until it is centered over the break in the pole, then wrap it into place with duct tape. Replace the damaged section as soon as possible. Using the parts included in your Integral Designs pole repair kit, follow these steps to replace a broken pole section:

1. Locate the end (Vinyl tipped) pole section with the ferrule (the "male" joint) and pull about 6" of shockcord out from the ferrule.
2. Cut the shockcord as close to the ferrule and unthread section from the shockcord until you can remove the broken pole section.
3. Thread on the replacement pole section and all the unbroken sections except the final section with the Vinyl pole tip.

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4. Carefully remove the Vinyl pole tip with a sharp knife. This tip is glued securely on the pole, so you will have to cut down the side of the tip to remove it.
5. Stretch the elastic shock cord out from the pole pieces to create slack between the end pole and the rest of the pole sections. Holding the slack in place, push the shock cord completely through the end pole.
6. Using a clamp maintain the slack and thread a washer on the shock-cord. Tie an overhand knot behind the washer.
7. Allow the cord to snap back into the end pole. The washer and knot will hold the shockcord in place. Install a new vinyl pole tip and glue in place.

ZIPPERS

A worn slider is the cause of most zipper problems. Grit greatly accelerates slider wear. Keep zippers clean by rinsing them in water after use in windy/sandy environments. Sometimes a careful squeeze with a pair of pliers on both sides of a slider will restore some life. If an inner door slider fails, run it as far as possible toward one end of the zipper and use only the other slider for duration of the trip. A sewing repair shop can replace inoperable sliders.

ABOUT THE TUNNEL VENTS

MOISTURE

MK single-wall tents use “breathable” fabric” to disperse water vapor to the outside. The colder and drier the outside environment is compared to the tent’s interior, the better the fabric “breathes”. No waterproof/breathable fabric can vent all of the moisture exhaled and perspired by two people overnight. Consequently, there are several other features to supplement the fabric’s breathability:

1. On our consumer Tegraltex tents, a wicking layer of yellow Nexus® polyester on the inside of the tent acts as a buffer by holding moisture until it can be passed to the outside.
2. The interior air volume of the tent can hold moisture in vapor form depending on its temperature. Warmer, drier air will hold more vapor. Your tents tunnel vents will help move this moisture-laden air outside and replace it with fresh dry air.
3. A weather flap above the door allows you to partially unzip the top of the door to permit more water vapor to escape in more humid environments. The weather flap helps prevent rain or snow from entering the tent.

GAS EXCHANGE

Harmful gases such as carbon monoxide may accumulate in the closed environment of your tent due to breathing, lanterns or cooking. Since no “waterproof/breathable” fabric can manage all of this gas exchange simultaneously, tunnel vents are installed on the tent walls to facilitate this process. If more gas exchange is necessary, you will need to partially open the door. Keep the tunnel vents popped to the outside and keep them clear of any obstruction such as snow or debris. Under very cold conditions, the tent may stay drier if you limit the venting a bit to maintain a higher interior temperature. This will help “push” moisture through the breathable fabric and may keep moisture from freezing on the tent ceiling.

The vents are designed to prevent rain from entering the tent, however, if the vent cords are hanging inside the tent, they may wick and drip moisture. Stuff the cords into the vents.

Caution: when leaving the tent for any period of time especially in wet weather, pull the vents out and tie them down. It is possible that a gust of wind could turn a vent inside out and drain water directly into the tent, though we've never seen it happen.

TAKING DOWN THE TENT

When taking the tent down, take care not to stress the poles or fabric. Undo the Velcro straps on the overhead pole crossing before removing the poles. To minimize stress on the shockcord in the poles and speed up disassembly, fold the pole in half and then fold towards the ends two sections at a time. In cold conditions, use gloves or mitts when handling the poles to minimize the risk of frostbite.

PACKING THE TENT

If time and weather permit, roll the tent into its stuff sac. Rolling makes a smaller package and causes fewer creases in the P.U. coating. The tent and poles may be carried separately for easier packing or load sharing.

MK TENT ACCESSORIES

For more comfort, consider purchasing a vestibule (available for the MK 1 XL and MK3 and Yukon) to expand your living space for gear storage and cooking. A vestibule is an essential item for longer expeditions or where comfort is a priority. A gear loft is also available for interior storage – this is a useful accessory, which holds small items such as headlamps, glasses and lip balm for easy access. Every expedition should carry a pole repair kit, extra sets are available if required (note: the poles for the MK 1 Lite and MK1 XL are the same length).

ENJOY YOUR NEW TENT

We hope you have many years of outdoor adventures in your new Integral Designs MK tent. With proper care and maintenance, your investment will offer a comfortable home in the wildest conditions. Have fun!

WARRANTY

All Integral products are warranted to the original owner against defects and workmanship. If a product fails due to manufacturing defect, Integral will repair or replace it at its option. Repairs due to accident, improper use, or wear and tear will be charged on a time and material basis.

MADE IN CANADA

All Integral Designs products are proudly made in our own factory in Canada. Our factory is located in Calgary, Alberta, in the shadow of the Canadian Rockies where we can manufacture a product one day and test it in the mountains the day after. Production runs are small and quality control is closely monitored.



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