

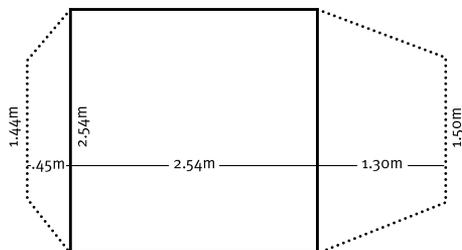
# MEC™ FUNHOUSE 4

This booklet tells you how to prepare, assemble, and maintain your new tent; please keep it for future reference. Set up your tent at home before your first trip; this will allow you to inspect it for any manufacturing defects, check that all parts are present, and learn the assembly procedure with minimal stress on the tent and on you.



## Your Funhouse 4 tent package includes:

- ▶ Tent body
- ▶ Tent fly
- ▶ Four poles
- ▶ Tent pegs, hammer, and nylon guy lines
- ▶ Pole repair sleeve
- ▶ Tent sack and pole sack



FUNHOUSE 4 Height inside 1.85m

 **MOUNTAIN  
EQUIPMENT  
CO-OP®**

## SEAM SEALING

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The seams of your tent have been waterproof taped on all exposed seams. However, it is impossible to factory-seal stitch lines around windows and doors. For maximum weatherproof performance, we suggest you treat these seams with a quality after-market polyurethane sealer such as McNett Seam Grip®. It is not necessary to apply the sealer to the factory-sealed seams.

Work in a well-ventilated area to avoid inhaling sealant vapours. For complete sealing, evenly apply only the minimum required amount of sealant into needle holes, thread, and fabric joints. Allow to dry and cure overnight. Before packing the tent for the first time, dust newly sealed areas with talcum powder or spray them with 303™ Protectant; freshly cured sealer can bond to itself even when dry. You may need to reapply seam sealer to high-wear areas if you use your tent frequently.

## SITE PREPARATION

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Remove sharp objects that might puncture the tent floor.

A ground sheet beneath the tent is not necessary for waterproofness, but it will reduce long-term wear on the tent floor. A ground sheet should be cut or folded smaller than the tent floor to prevent water pooling between the floor and the ground sheet.

## SET-UP

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### **A note about shock-corded poles**

Shockcord (bungee cord) is meant to keep pole sections in the proper order—not as an automatic assembly mechanism for poles. Do not hold one section while whipping the rest of the pole back and forth, or toss the poles into the air; either procedure excessively stresses the pole joints and shockcord. Fit poles together section by section, making sure that each piece slides completely into the next. Forcing an improperly assembled pole into place can damage the pole and/or the tent body and fly.

### **Assembling the Tent**

**1** Assemble all poles carefully, as described in the previous paragraph. You will have four poles: two equal-length angled ones, one shorter angled one, and one straight one.

**2** Lay the inner tent out flat, with the mesh panels on top. In windy conditions, you may wish to peg out the corners before proceeding.

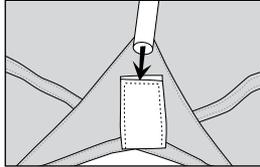
**3** Push (do not pull) the two longest angled poles through the mesh pole sleeves on the tent body. The poles should cross in an X at the middle of the tent.

**4** Raise the tent by inserting the wire pins at each tent corner into the bottoms of the poles. Start with the uppermost pole.

**5** Attach the clips to the poles.

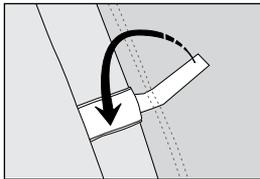
### Attaching the Fly

**1** Underneath each of the long sides of the fly there are black webbing pockets. Fit the ends of the straight pole into these pockets, and fasten the hook-and-loop touch tape at the centre of the fly around the middle of the pole.



**2** Drape the fly over the top of the tent with the pole on the underside. The pole should be across the tent peak, pointing from window side to window side. The mesh vestibule should be at the end of the tent body where the mesh pole sleeves are.

**3** There are hook-and-loop touch tape attachments on the underside of the fly at each corner. Where the poles are clipped to the tent, wrap these attachments directly around the pole. Where the poles run through mesh sleeves, fasten the attachments to the hook-and-loop panels on the sleeves. Note that at the bottom of the sleeved poles are bug protector panels. Fasten these panels into place.



**4** Attach the hooks at the corners of the tent fly to the rings on the tent body.

## Rigging the vestibules

**1** Run the remaining angled pole through the pole sleeve across the top of the mesh vestibule. Insert the second wire pins at the front tent corners into the ends of this pole. Attach the pole clips.

**2** Peg out the ground loops at the front corners of the vestibule to pull it into shape.

**3** Lay the skirting along the bottom edges towards the inside of the mesh vestibule. Laying the skirting out flat and wide will block insects most effectively. The skirting can be anchored in place by rocks, stuff sacks, etc.

**4** Peg out the back (non-mesh) vestibule and tie it back if desired. Note that the vestibule has peg loops on either side of the door zippers. By staking out one loop or the other, you can make the door side-opening or centre-opening to adapt it to the prevailing wind or local landscape features.

The centre panel of the back vestibule can also be rigged as a porch roof. Most users prefer to save weight and cost by improvising porch poles out of dead wood, paddles, lines running to trees, etc. For this reason, the tent does not come with porch poles; if you prefer maximum convenience, one or two optional MEC Adjustable Tarp Poles will work well.

If rigging this panel as a rain roof, do not leave flat or baggy surfaces where water can pool. Rig the panel so it slopes away from the tent, like a cap brim. You can also rig it to slope towards the tent so water drains off to the sides.

## Rigging for maximum wind stability

**1** If you have not already done so, peg out the corners of the tent.

**2** If desired, peg out the ground loops along the tent sides.

**3** We strongly recommend you peg out the four guy line anchor points using the lines supplied. The guy line anchor points are the triangular flaps at the back corners and the mesh vestibule corners. Adjust the guy lines so that they are taut, but not so tight that the tent fabric puckers. The guypoints should counter-balance one another for maximum stability and minimum stress on the tent. The guy lines may need to be tightened or loosened as the tent fabric stretches or shrinks with dampness or dryness.

**Important Note:** Use only the triangular anchor points for attaching guy lines. The regular loops on the tent fly are intended only for holding the toggles when rolling up panels for access or ventilation. Attaching guy lines to these loops can damage the loops and/or the tent fly.

## **Ventilating the Tent**

Proper ventilation is the key to minimizing condensation in any tent. Keep fabric doors open as widely as the prevailing weather permits. If bugs or drafts aren't a problem, leave mesh doors open too. Crack each door open from the top down; warm, moist air rises and will escape through high openings. If the design of your tent allows, keep openings at both ends or both sides of the tent to allow air to flow through for best ventilation. On very hot nights, when you are confident there will be no rain or dewfall, you can leave the flysheet off and use the inner tent alone as a "bug tent."

## **Disassembling the Tent**

When taking down the tent, do not stress the poles and fabrics. First, disconnect the guy lines and release the tension from the tent. Next, release all the poles. If your tent has pole sleeves, push the poles out of the sleeves instead of pulling them out. To minimize the stress on the bungee cord in the poles and to speed disassembly, fold each pole in half first, and then fold down towards the outsides, two sections at a time.

## **Packing the Tent**

If possible, fold and roll the tent rather than stuffing it into its sack—rolling makes a smaller package, and causes fewer creases in the polyurethane coating. The tent and poles may be carried separately for easier packing or load sharing.



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

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### Protecting the Tent

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; this will eventually result in colour fading and fabric failure. The uncoated fabrics of the tent canopy are most susceptible to damage from UV and should be covered by the more durable fly. If extended exposure is unavoidable, cover the tent with a tarp or a sheet of nylon.

### Lighting your Tent

Using a candle lantern in a tent carries definite risks. Never leave a candle lantern burning unattended; always watch for fire hazard from overheating fabrics or spilling wax. Spilling wax can be dangerous, particularly to eyes and other sensitive areas. It is your responsibility to use candle lanterns wisely and with extreme caution: we do not endorse the use of any flame or heat source in a tent. Cooking in a tent is strongly discouraged because of fire hazards and carbon monoxide inhalation risks. Unlike campfire smoke and other fumes, which cause you to gasp for air, **carbon monoxide can render you unconscious without any warning.** ☠

### Food in Tents

Mop up spills promptly with water. Many foods, particularly acidic ones like fruit or juices, can weaken synthetic fabrics over time. In any case, it is best to eat and store food away from a tent, to avoid attracting animals.

### Cleaning

Clean the tent by hand while it is set up, using a sponge, a mild non-detergent soap, and warm water. Rinse thoroughly. Do not dry clean, machine wash, or machine dry. Stubborn stains like tar can be left in place and dusted with talcum powder to prevent transfer to other areas of the tent in storage. After cleaning, a spray-on water repellent designed for synthetic fabrics may be applied to the flysheet if surface water repellency is weakening. (This is apparent when water droplets no longer bead up on the fabric.)

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

### Lubricating the Poles

Occasionally apply a light coating of a silicone-based lubricant like 303™ Protectant to the tent pole connections. If the poles are used extensively in marine environments, treat them more frequently.

## Storing your Tent

Dry the tent and poles completely before storage to avoid mildew or hidden pole corrosion. Store in a cool, dry place out of direct light. Mildewed 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 should still be usable.

## REPAIRING YOUR TENT

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### 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 (½ in.), apply duct tape to one side and sealant to the other. On longer tears, apply duct tape to one side and a patch of no-see-um netting to the other. Ensure the netting extends 6-12mm (¼ - ½ in.) beyond the edges of the tear. Use oval or circular patches (rounded edges are less likely to peel away than sharp corners). Cover the patch thoroughly in sealant. When the sealant is completely dry, remove the duct tape.

For longer trips, we recommend taking an expedition sewing kit and extra nylon, webbing, a spare pole section, and narrow-diameter (2.5mm) tent pole shockcord. Coghlan's® Seam Saturant or the like will prevent wicking through a tent fly via seams or webbing.

### Fixing a Pole in the Field

Slip the pole repair sleeve over one pole end. Slide the sleeve along until it is centred over the break in the pole, then wrap it into place with duct tape. Be careful not to damage the tent fabrics when removing the damaged pole. Replace the damaged section as soon as possible.

### Zippers

A worn slider is the cause of most zipper problems. An occasional application of 303™ Protectant or a silicone-based lubricant will help reduce wear. Grit accelerates slider wear. Keep zippers clean by rinsing them under water after use in windy/sandy environments. Sometimes, carefully squeezing the top ends of the slider with a pair of pliers 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 the duration of the trip. A sewing repair shop can replace inoperable sliders.