

# **Motop Roof Top Tent Maintenance Guide**

## **Introduction**

Thank you for choosing the Motop Roof Top Tent. Ensuring the longevity and optimal performance of your tent requires regular maintenance and attention, especially when it comes to the issue of condensation. This guide will provide you with essential care and maintenance tips.

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### **1. Seasoning your Motop Roof Top Tent's New Canvas**

After purchasing a new canvas product, be it a swag, tent, awning, etc, it's recommended to follow a process called "seasoning" before it's taken out into the field for its first trip. During construction, the canvas material is punctured 1000's of times along the seams where various pieces are sewn together. This stitching leaves tiny pin holes which are prone to leaking the first few of times they are wet.

Seasoning a new canvas product eliminates this leaking by causing the canvas to expand and contract, in turn sealing up the holes. Seasoning is a very simple process done over a couple of days that, when done correctly, will eliminate a damp and disappointing camping experience.

#### **Here's what you need to do:**

- 1) Erect the tent canvas in its entirety on a relatively flat surface. Use every peg loop, guy rope and all the poles that its supplied with to ensure the canvas is set up as perfectly and symmetrical as possible (if you have your tent or swag erected unevenly, or slouching in one area, as the canvas expands and contracts it can cause it to permanently favour that position.)
- 2) Get a hose and set the nozzle to 'shower' (do not use a pressure hose or jet spray, this can damage the waterproofing treatment on the canvas) and begin generously showering down the entire length of the canvas being sure to give each seam a thorough dousing. You will notice at first the canvas will bead the water, but as time goes on it will start to soak in, especially in the seam areas. Continue this for 3-5 minutes or until the canvas is saturated.
- 3) In the erect position allows the tent canvas to completely dry.

- 4) Repeat this process another two times over a couple of days for best results, you should notice less and less leaking each time.
  - 5) After wetting for the final time, inspect the inside of the canvas to see if it's watertight. If there is still water coming through, you may need to apply a seam sealing product to completely waterproof that particular area.
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## 2. Understanding Condensation

Condensation is a natural process that occurs when moist air meets a colder surface, turning the water vapor in the air into liquid droplets. This can start to happen as soon as the tent is unpacked and exposed to the real-world weather conditions, regardless of whether the tent is in use.

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## 3. Winter Maintenance

In colder months, it's crucial to take extra steps to prevent condensation build-up:

- **Air Drying:** Every fortnight during winter, thoroughly air dry the tent under direct sunlight. Indoor drying is insufficient to remove all moisture.
  - **Dehumidifier Use:** When storing the tent, place a dehumidifier inside to help reduce humidity and prevent condensation.
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## 4. Importance of Proper Ventilation and Maintenance

Condensation can lead to various issues if not properly managed:

- **Fabric Damage:** Continued exposure to moisture can weaken the tent's fabric.
- **Electronic Damage:** If you have any electronic components inside the tent, moisture can cause them to malfunction.
- **Mold and Mildew Growth:** Excess moisture can lead to the growth of mold or mildew, which can affect your health and damage the tent.

Remember, damages resulting from neglecting to manage condensation are not covered by the warranty.

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## 5. Addressing Mold Build-Up

- If mold has already developed on the tent's canvas, follow these steps:
- **Safety First:** Wear gloves and a mask to avoid inhaling mold spores or having them come in contact with your skin.

- **Brush Off Dry Mold:** Using a soft brush, gently remove as much dry mold as you can.
- **Prepare a Cleaning Solution:** Mix one part white vinegar with ten parts water, of using fabric mold remover.
- **Clean the Affected Area:** Using a soft cloth, gently scrub the moldy areas with the cleaning solution.
- **Rinse Thoroughly:** After cleaning, rinse the area with clean water to remove any cleaning solution residue.
- **Dry Completely:** Allow the tent to dry thoroughly under direct sunlight to ensure all moisture is gone.

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## 6. Car Wash Note

Before entering an auto car wash, ensure the tent is removed from your vehicle. The high-pressure water, aggressive brushes, and chemicals used in many car wash machines can cause damage to the tent's fabric and structural components, compromising its durability and performance.

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## 7. Warranty Limitations

Please be aware of the following exclusions from your tent's warranty:

**Surface Wear:** Wear on the exterior coating due to environmental factors, weather conditions, or car wash chemicals is not covered.

**Condensation Damage:** Any damage resulting from condensation is not covered. It is essential to follow the recommended maintenance practices to prevent such issues.

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## Conclusion

Your Motop Roof Top Tent is a valuable investment, and with the right care and attention, it can serve you well for many adventures to come. Always prioritise proper maintenance to ensure its longevity and optimal performance. Safe travels!