



## LITTLE FOOT YURTS MAINTENANCE & CLEANING GUIDE

Our yurts are made with green wood and natural materials, so it is important to learn how to properly take care of your yurt to prevent any issues.

Taking an active part in maintaining your yurt will help you become more familiar with your yurt and is an important part of preserving and lengthening the life of your yurt.

To keep your yurt healthy and free of issues, please remember the following guidelines:

- **Keep your yurt in the sun**
- **If your not living in it, take it down**
- **Lite the wood stove in damp conditions**
- **Keep your brush and vinegar bottle handy**
- **If you see dirt or mould, clean it straight away**

This guide includes the following sections:

- 1) Yearly maintenance calendar and maintenance activities
- 2) Natural cleaning solutions kit
- 3) Maintaining your yurt; both wooden and canvas parts
- 4) Maintenance Contract
- 5) Canvas Details

## 1) YEARLY MAINTENANCE CALENDAR

Make a note on your calendar to remind you which months your maintenance should occur.

<b>Late September</b>	<b>Early April</b>	<b>Early July</b>
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The yurt should be taken down two to three times a year for cleaning and oiling. From our experience, it is best to do this at the shoulder seasons when the environment is most humid and damp; **late September, early April & early July**.

### Maintenance Activities:

- Read the guide on assembling and disassembling your yurt.
- Wait for a couple of good dry days for cleaning.
- Before you take the yurt down, first check the canvas for dirt build up or staining and remember to look behind the poles.
- Brush the outside canvas with a clean dry straw broom to ensure no dirt or animal nests lie against it or between the layers.
- If you have no visible mould or staining issues, then the canvas can be sprayed with vinegar and scrubbed down with a white bristle brush to remove any dirt.
- Any areas with black marks or mould speckling should be scrubbed with water and borax with the white bristle brush. After this, the canvas needs to be dried.
- Spray with vinegar and let dry again. (In the case of deeper cleaning take all the poles out except ten evenly spaced poles, so it is easy to access the yurt cover and let dry completely after cleaning before storing the canvas.)
- As you disassemble your yurt the wooden frame can have a single wipe with a vinegary cloth even if there is no sign of mould.
- The wooden frame should also have a wipe over with vinegar.
- The wooden frame needs to be oiled with a 60% turpentine and 40% linseed oil mix and left to dry at least three days before re-erection.

## 2) NATURAL CLEANING SOLUTIONS KIT

Ensure you have these items on hand for scheduled cleaning and if issues arise.

Item	Use	Where to purchase
straw broom	sweep roof cover	Home Hardware
hand held scrubbing brush with white bristles	clean canvas	Home Hardware
stainless steel dish scrubby	cleaning wood components	Home Hardware
clean white rags	wiping down and oiling	Home Hardware
rubber gloves	protecting hands	Home Hardware
*borax	Retards organic growth, whitens canvas and strips old linseed oil	Save Easy Home hardware Sobeys
*turpentine and boiled linseed oil	protects and preserves wood, suffocates old mould, Repels water and slows humidity.	Home Hardware
Vinegar	Cleaning by wiping and spraying can be used anytime to clean any part of the yurt	Save Easy
spray bottle	To distribute vinegar	Home Hardware
small and large bucket	rinsing and holding water solutions	Home Hardware

\* ½ cup borax in 2 litres of water

\*To make a natural wooden preservative mix 60% turpentine and 40% linseed oil.

## 3) MAINTAINING YOUR YURT; BOTH WOODEN AND CANVAS PARTS

### Preservation of wooden products

Your complete yurt frame should be oiled between two and three times a year to protect and maintain the wood. Linseed oil is naturally anti fungal and an excellent natural preservative for wood. This mixture (60% turpentine and 40% linseed oil) should be applied with a soft clean cloth, and any excess oil needs to be rubbed off.

### Storing canvas & felt panels

Canvas should always be folded and stored dry in a breathable space. When you are not using the felt panels, pack away when dry and store in a mouse proof container.

### **Keeping canvas clean**

Although the canvas is mould and rot resistant, mould can grow on organic particles that land on the yurt. An accumulation of dirt or soiling can create an ideal environment for bacteria to grow and cause staining of the canvas.

Marks, organic matter, and bird droppings should be removed by gently brushing with a dry white bristled brush, or straw broom, then wiped with a clean damp cloth whilst flushing with lots of clean water.

Detergent should not be used, except in a very small area for stubborn stains. Detergent may deteriorate the effectiveness of the waterproofing and fire treatments. In most cases brushing down the canvas with a stiff brush will remove surface dirt.

As much as possible, increase the airflow in the yurt regularly by moving furniture around and have adequate space behind furniture and check areas behind furniture.

### **Dealing with mould on wooden parts**

Nova Scotia can have damp conditions and in times of prolonged darkness and dampness, mould can appear on wooden areas that have been exposed to this damp environment. The most effective method to remove mould staining on wooden parts is to scrub the wood with a metal dish scrubby or wire wool and a solution of borax and water. The mildew is most likely only on the surface coats of oil and scrubbing this back will remove most of the mould staining.

Let the poles dry in the sun and oil again. This will suffocate the re growth of the mould, and regular oiling and clean poles should keep the mould away.

### **Dealing with mould on canvas**

In times of deep cleaning it is a good idea to remove nearly all the affected roof poles from the yurt and take them outside for scrubbing. Leave 6-10 of the best poles to evenly support the wheel while you scrub the area on the canvas behind the poles with the borax solution and white bristle brush.

Let canvas dry. At this point, it can be sprayed with vinegar and let dry again. (Let dry completely after cleaning before storing the canvas.)

If you experience mould on the canvas, check that the yurt is in full sun or rotate the yurt so the north side is now facing the south.

When you see dirt or mould don't wait, act quickly!

#### 4) MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

If you do not have the time to maintain your yurt, please contact us regarding our maintenance contract. We can set up, take down and clean the yurt on a yearly schedule. As each yurt is specific in size and location, please contact us for a quote.

#### 5) OUR CANVAS

We use an Egyptian cotton canvass called Sunforger, which is tested to CPAI 84 and S109 ULC for fire retardency (Canadian standard for public access event spaces).

It is a treated canvas, which is rot, mildew, water and UV resistant. This canvas provides an excellent weather resistant covering that is both natural and breathable, allowing condensation to escape whilst keeping the harshest of weathers out.

The benefits of a breathable natural membrane such as canvas instead of vinyl plastic are as follows: significantly less condensation, no off gassing, more aesthetically pleasing, lighter, and easier to repair.

Note: If you require our fire test results for large and small flame tests please contact us and we can email this document to you.