



## Maintaining your Tipi

### 1) Preservation of wooden products

Your tipi poles can be oiled annually to protect and maintain the wood. Boiled linseed oil is naturally anti-fungal and an excellent natural preservative for wood. Linseed oil should be applied sparingly with a soft clean cloth, and any excess oil needs to be rubbed off.

### 2) Storing canvas

Canvas should always be folded and stored dry in a breathable space.

### 3) Cleaning canvas

Marks, organic matter, and bird droppings should be dry brushed off and then wiped with a clean damp cloth. Only a mild natural detergent should be used. A strong detergent may deteriorate the effectiveness of waterproofing and fire treatments of the canvas. In most cases brushing down the canvas with a stiff brush will remove surface dirt.

Although the canvas is mold and rot resistant, mold can grow on organic particles that land on the tipi. Brushing and shaking of the canvas will prevent this. An accumulation of dirt or soiling can create an ideal environment for bacteria to grow and cause staining of the fabric. It is important that this be removed regularly to maintain the appearance and longevity of the fabric.

### 4) Dealing with mold on wooden parts or canvas

Nova Scotia can have damp conditions and in times of prolonged darkness and dampness, mold can appear on wooden areas that have not received sufficient oiling.

At Little Foot Yurts we have discovered the following about mold:

- Mold does not like the hot sun.
- We don't recommended using bleach.
- Chlorine bleach will also weaken the strength of natural fibres like cotton, and for this reason should not be used on the canvas.
- Mildew prefers alkaline conditions to grow
- Prevention of mold is always best by using white vinegar.

- If you have any spills of food on the canvas, use vinegar right away to clean the area.
- Using vinegar, which is an acid, should provide conditions which will prevent the growth of mold.
- Any staining from mold spores can be sanded off and then the wood should be retreated.

### **A word about our canvas**

We use an Egyptian double weave cotton canvas called Sungorger FR (10.5oz). It is tested to Canadian fire codes CPAI 84 and S109 ULC. It is a treated canvas, which is rot, mildew, water, fire, and UV resistant. The treatments are very necessary in damp and cold climates like we have in Nova Scotia.

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.

### **Deck and Fire Information**

The tipi works well set up on the ground. Putting your tipi high and dry on a deck will prevent mold on the canvas and create a really dry space. Tipis have an egg shaped floor plan so building an exact fitting deck is not always easy.

Consider building a simple rectangular deck bigger than your tipi. Once it is set up with or without an inner liner you can choose tis area with tongue and groove sheath. Treat all wood for outside application.

Building a fire on a deck can only be done with sufficient fire board against the wooden deck. We recommend laying a metal sheet on top of combustible fire board or use a pre made stove board. Then build a good sturdy stone circle and fill your circle with 1” stone. Simply build your fire in the rock circle on top of the stone fill. Only burn dry wood for a comfortable smoke free environment.