



## MAINTENANCE & CLEANING GUIDE

Our yurts are made natural materials such as wood and cotton canvas 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 mold, 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 to leave enough time before your set up day to properly clean any canvas components. Cleaning your wood after you take the yurt down is the ideal way to store your yurt.

Spring - Clean canvas prior to set up	Fall – Clean wood after take down
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The yurt should be taken down at least once a year for cleaning and is often done during seasonal take down.

### **Maintenance activities for canvas:**

- Wait for a couple of good dry days for take down and cleaning.
- Brush the outside canvas with a clean dry straw broom to ensure no dirt or animal nests lie against it or between the layers.
- Before you take the yurt down, first check the canvas for dirt build up or staining and remember to look behind the poles. Spot clean the canvas and ensure it is dry before storing.
- If you have dirt marks, food stains or the first signs of mold then the canvas can be sprayed with vinegar and scrubbed down with a white bristle brush.
- If you have mold on the canvas, soak and the canvas in a large container with a borax and water solution. (1/2 box of borax submersed with water for 4 hours) Put the canvas on a clean tarp and scrub it with a white bristle brush or use a gentle jet wash at a 15 degree spray to remove the dirt or mould.
- Use a lot of water when cleaning canvas. It's ideal to have an area where the dirty water can easily run away, like a deck. Bigger canvas such as a large roof cover may require the use of a wet vac or rug doctor which sucks away the dirty water.

### **Maintenance activities for wooden frame:**

- As a preventative measure wipe your frame with a vinegary cloth even if there is no sign of mold. This can be done after or during take down.
- If your wooden frame has mold, simply scrub with a stainless steel dish scrubbie and vinegar until the mold is removed. If the treatments on the wood are also removed, lightly retreat the areas with a hard wax oil. We use Fiddes USA hard wax oil.

- Please note: Do not clean your wood with borax unless you want to strip the finish off completely and retreat.

## 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	Hardware store
hand held scrubbing brush with white bristles	clean canvas	Hardware store
stainless steel dish scrubby	cleans wood components	Hardware store
clean white rags	wipe down	Hardware store
rubber gloves	protect hands	Hardware store
borax	stops organic growth, whitens canvas and strips old linseed oil	Hardware or grocery store
Fiddes USA	treatment of wooden frame	fiddes-usa.com
vinegar	clean by wiping and spraying can be used anytime to clean any part of the yurt	Hardware or grocery store
spray bottle	to distribute vinegar	Hardware store
large container	rinse and hold water solutions	Hardware store

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

### Preservation of wooden products

Your yurt frame is treated with Fiddes hard wax oil which is a fast drying natural product. Your yurt frame may need touching up with oil if the finish is worn off due to abrasive cleaning.

### 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 rodent proof container.

### **Keeping canvas healthy**

Although the canvas is mold and rot resistant, mold 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. Every two years we recommend scrubbing down the outside of the canvas to remove excess dirt.

### **Dealing with mold on wooden parts**

Atlantic Canada can have damp conditions and in times of prolonged darkness and dampness, mold can appear on wooden areas that have been exposed to this damp environment. The most effective method to remove mold staining on wooden parts is to scrub the wood with a metal dish scrubby and white vinegar. The mold is most likely only on the surface coats and scrubbing this back will remove most of the mould staining.

Let the poles dry in the sun and treat lightly with a hard wax oil.

### **Dealing with mold on canvas**

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

Scrub canvas with vinegar until clean. If your canvas has extensive mold or dirt from improper storage or neglect then soak the canvas component in borax and water for at least 4 hours. Then scrub on a clean tarp with a white bristle brush or jet wash gently on 15 degree spray or from a distance so the jet washer does not damage the canvas. This procedure is best done before the yurt set up so you can dry the soaked component on the frame.

## **4) MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

We can provide a maintenance contract if you do not have the time to maintain your yurt. We can set up, take down and clean the yurt on a yearly schedule for \$65 per hour/per LFY staff. As each yurt is specific in size and location, please contact us for a quote.

## 5) 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 canvas gives a beautiful light inside the yurt and is both cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

We always recommend having two roof covers for year round use. Using a double layered breathable membrane allows condensation and moisture to pass outward without letting in any drips in. 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.

To protect both the frame and the canvas we tailor in a foot of Top Gun (heavy duty vinyl-coated canvas) at the bottom of the wall, which gets tucked under the frame so that the wood and canvas never touch the ground.

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.