

BSA Troop 540 Equipment Care & Cleaning v14Apr07

Tents: Please air tents out on a dry day for a couple of hours. **Dry weather or not, all tents will go home with an assigned scout to be cleaned and aired out. Even relatively dry trips do not preclude the need to air them out** and clean out all debris. Please air them out immediately when you get them home....do not leave it rolled up for days waiting for a fair weather day. Mildew can grow relatively fast. Open the tent same day you bring it home in a garage, a basement, any covered area that is relatively dry. Of course, if it IS a great weather day when you get it home, set it up right away and let the sunshine and fresh air do its thing. Please inspect tents for any damage and advise your Patrol Quartermaster (PQM) if there is any. Please **GENTLY** clean any dirty or muddy areas of your tent. **Do NOT scrub your tent** as you do not want to damage the waterproofing surfaces. Gently sponge off dirty surfaces. Sweep out any leaves, debris, etc. Then neatly repackage the tent with poles and pegs in the tent bag. Fold the tent properly. Do not just stuff the tent in the bag. Please advise your PQM if you are missing any pegs or if the poles are damaged in any way. Make sure the numbered tent you have is in the tent bag of the same number.... Yes I really had to say that....amazingly somehow they get separated sometimes. You should have a ground cloth/floor saver with each tent. Make sure your tent has one and it is clean same as the tent itself.

Tarps: Tarps require same cleaning exercise as tents. Clean mud and debris off. **Dry thoroughly** before rolling up neatly. All poles, pegs, and ropes accounted for.

Cook Kits and Utensils: Please thoroughly clean all cookware, pots, pans, lids, handles, etc. They do not have to be spotless but they do have to be clean. Food particles, grease, rust, and other debris must be **completely** removed. That means that you will need to use some “elbow grease” from time to time. It does not matter if you have KitchenAid, Whirlpool, Kenmore, General Electric, or any other brand of dishwasher... throwing the cook kit in the family dishwasher will **NOT** do the trick. You will need Brillo (or other brand soap pad) and elbow grease... get used to it. 😊 All must be thoroughly **dry** and cook kit should be re-assembled properly. The cook kits are re-assembled in the exact order as shown on the “Patrol Inventory Listing” sheet. Use it if you’re not familiar with the re-assembly order.

Utensils: Same cleaning instructions as the cook kits... all food particles, grease, rust, and other debris must be **completely** removed. Same Brillo and elbow grease combination required.... Mom’s dishwasher is not the answer. If you were assigned to take home the utensils, you were assigned to take home **ALL** the utensils for cleaning. We are not expecting the spoon to come back from Jimmy and the fork and can opener to come back from Bobby, and the ladle and spatula to come back from..... well you get the idea.

Food Boxes: Food boxes need to be completely emptied, thoroughly cleaned and dried. Only **well sealed, non-perishable** food and/or non-food items may be repacked in the food box for storage. So for example, a leftover **unopened** can of beans may remain in the food box. Leftover paper towels may be stored in the food box as an example of an acceptable non-food item. The idea is to prevent mice and other critters from being attracted to food while stored in the shed. You get the idea.

Equipment Boxes: Please clean out debris and wipe down inside **and outside** of boxes. Again, spotless is not required, but dirt and grime and debris must be removed completely. Make sure the box is **DRY** before repacking any equipment. If you were assigned the equipment box, it is important that you return it at the first meeting after a campout. It is not fun taking a Patrol's equipment back to the shed in pieces because the equipment box did not get returned. If you can't be there, arrange for the equipment box to be returned for you.

Lanterns: Lanterns need to be taken out of their cases, wiped clean on all surfaces and inspected for damage to the components, especially the glass or screen parts. Check to see if the mantels are OK. If not, report that to the PQM when you check-in the lantern and the PQM will arrange for new mantels to be included in the patrol box for next use. My observation is that it is quite normal for the mantels to **not** survive more than one camping trip. Just let your PQM know the status of your mantles when you check it in. Please also wipe down the lantern case to remove any dirt, mud, grime, etc.

Water Jugs: Rinse out thoroughly, completely empty it, then take cap off and let it air dry completely on the inside.

Patrol Quartermasters (PQM): It is your responsibility to assure yourselves that all above has been done. Please let the T540 Troop Quartermaster (QM) know about any broken, missing or otherwise unserviceable parts or equipment. Please also identify an extra items that show up in your inventory (eg. extra fry pan handles, pot lids, cups from the cook kits, etc). If you've got extra, somebody else is missing something.

Equipment Check-In: After each campout, Check-In of equipment begins promptly 1/2 hour earlier than the start of the Troop meeting... ie 7:00pm. We need equipment to arrive between 7:00pm and 7:15pm so we can check it in quickly and try not to encroach on the Troop meeting that begins at 7:30pm. It is not helpful to arrive at 7:28pm with your stuff... we're getting better at this Check-In thing, but we can not do it in 2 minutes. ALL Patrol Quartermasters (PQM's) are **REQUIRED** to be there at 7:00pm sharp to assist the Troop QM in Check-in of equipment from your Patrol.

If you have **ANY** questions about equipment care and cleaning, please do not hesitate to ask.