

REI PRODUCT INFORMATION

TENTS

QUICK TIPS

Tent choice depends on a few key factors:

How many sleepers and how roomy? Capacities assume a snug fit: Upsize if space, not weight, is your priority.

How severe might conditions get? Convertible and 4-season tents are built to handle snow loads and heavy winds.

Maximize tent life by following care instructions and using a footprint.

Can't decide? Talk to a sales specialist or use the "Tent Finder" at REI.com.

TYPES OF TENTS

Bivy Sack: The most compact shelter you can carry—it's a waterproof barrier for your sleeping bag. If saving weight is your #1 priority, a bivy works well, but it can feel claustrophobic.

Ultralight: Roomier than a bivy, but still minimalist. Some ultralights are hammocks, some are floorless and some have a single wall with venting options. Solo shelters fall into this category.

3-Season: Best in spring, summer and early fall. It might have a screened top for stargazing in bug-free bliss or a sturdier design for moderate winter weather. It can stand an inch or 2 of snow, but isn't built to handle a blizzard.

Convertible: A tent designed to withstand 4-season conditions but can also be pitched in a 3-season configuration. The 3-season

setup often involves unzipping panels to increase ventilation and removing pole sections to save weight.

4-Season: Built for winter and/or high elevations, it can withstand snow loads and high winds. It has rounded edges to prevent snow accumulation and includes many features to enhance strength. Weatherproofness is a higher priority than ventilation.

Family/Base Camping: A spacious shelter with such luxuries as a porch or awning. Makes an ideal base camp for your group's daily outdoor activities.

Other categories: REI also offers sun and bug protection via mesh shelters, sunshades, wings and paraflys.

LIVABILITY FEATURES

- Dual doors make access quick and easy.
- Vestibules offer sheltered space for storing gear or cooking out of the elements.
- Gear attics and pockets help keep clutter off the floor.
- Rainfly vents help prevent condensation from building up inside.
- Rainfly windows let light in and let you look outside.

PREPARATION AND CARE

Practice setting up your new tent at home before you have to do it in the rain or at night by headlamp.

If your tent doesn't come with sealed seams, get seam sealer and apply it before your first camping trip.

You must air/dry out your tent after use and brush out any dirt. Store it in a cool, dry place. It should be loosely packed in the storage bag the tent came with.

UV DAMAGE CAN TAKE A TOLL

Direct sunlight is hard on tents. Pitch your tent in a shaded area and avoid leaving it up on a sunny day.

FOOTPRINTS

These custom groundcloths extend the life of your tent. Tent floors are tough, but rocks, twigs, grit and dirt eventually exact a toll: A footprint costs less to replace or repair.

Also, because footprints are sized to fit your tent shape exactly, they won't catch water like a generic groundcloth that sticks out beyond the floor edges. Water caught that way flows underneath and seeps through even tiny holes in the floor fabric.

Some tents are designed to allow ultralight "fastpacking" where the footprint and rainfly can be pitched together (without the tent body).

SOME WORDS ABOUT WEIGHT

Minimum weight: The total weight of body, rainfly and poles only: the bare essentials. Although you'll likely pack more tent-related gear than this, use this spec when comparing tent weights.

Packaged weight: The total weight of all tent components: body, rainfly, poles, stakes, stuff sack, pole sack, instruction book and any other items a manufacturer includes with the tent.

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