

TENTS

All - Season Tents

Fortified with stronger poles, 9.5 millimeter tempered aluminum, to withstand winter winds and snow. Sport an aerodynamic shape to shed high winds and has a "bathtub" floor to protect against wetness. Offers more space for bulky winter gear and usually includes a roomy vestibule. Weighs 2 to 4 pounds more than a three season tent. Usually the most expensive tent to purchase. Example is the Eureka Timberline Outfitter, Eureka Glacier Bay, the Quest Praying Mantis 4S and Viper.

Three - Season Tents

Tents represent good value for those who want reasonable protection on not too exposed sites. Tents handle heavy rains and moderate winds. Usually have 3 poles made of fiberglass or aluminum to support structure. Have breathable nylon mesh fabric beneath a waterproof fly. This helps air circulation and relieve condensation. They are prone to collapsing, tearing, and/ or spontaneous self - destruction if subject to snow and high winds. Example is the Eureka Timberline tent.

Mountaineering Tents

These tents are sturdy all - weather shelters that love miserable conditions at high altitude. Best choice for backpackers and climbers who go high and light and whose lives may depend on having the toughest shelter possible. Example is Eureka's new line of Alpinelite, Summit and K2 tents. Quest tents mentioned above.

A - Frame and Modified A - Frame Tents

Features sturdy end frames and ridge poles made of aluminum and angled side walls that shed wind and weather. Sloping sides reduce interior space. Tent requires many stakes to anchor. Usually a free standing tent. Eureka's Alpine Meadows and Kelty Canyon Ridge.

Dome Tents

Near vertical side walls offer maximum living space. Usually a three pole fiberglass configuration. Typical shape leaves large areas of unsupported fabric. Eureka's Glacier Bay, L. L. Bean Backpacker Dome.

Modified Dome Tents

Stronger than a dome because of rectangular floor shape and added cross poles, 4 or more poles made of tempered aluminum, to strengthen the structure. Most weather - worthy is the geodesic dome. L. L. Bean's North Col Expedition is a good example, as is Sierra Design's Trios I.

Hoop Tent

Simple side - to - side arched poles of the hoop, or "covered wagon" style tent offers good interior space, easy pitching and light weight. Design tends to rock and roll during high winds. Doesn't stand up to high winds and snow. Kelty Windfoil Ultralight and EMS's Thunderbolt.

Bivy Sack

One - man shelter. Offers minimum weight and minimum space. Features zip entrance, bug netting and fly - type cover. Can be Gore - Tex based material or polyurethane - coated material. Outdoor Research, L. L. Bean, Slumberjack, and EMS models.

Poles

Aluminum Poles - basic industry standard choice. 8.5 millimeter pole size are for three - season tents.

Tubular Fiberglass - cheap ones have exposed metal ferrules, are heavy and tend to break.

Fiberglass/ Carbon Fiber Poles - usually rival the best tempered aluminum poles.

Tempered Aluminum Poles - better to best quality poles. Bright anodized finish. 9.5 millimeter