

High Range 4wd Club of SA Inc

<http://www.hr4wdclubsa.org.au>

How to select a Tent

It does not matter which country manufactures the tent material but the thickness of material 2000mm (minimum thickness) is important, seams should be what is now called hot taped pressed.

There are two points here, firstly the thickness/weight of material – with canvas this tends to be measured in “ounces” which means the weight in ounces of one square yard of fabric. Synthetic fabrics are generally measured either in “gsm” grams per square metre or “denier” where a bigger number means a thicker fabric, ie general camping dome tents are 70 denier polyester fabric whereas BlackWolf Turbo Lite series tents use a heavier weight polyester fabric which is 150 denier, the theory behind this measure is more complicated than the others but if you would like to learn about it there is a pretty good explanation here.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denier_%28measure%29#Denier

The second point is the measurement of the waterproofness of the fabric and this is based on the pressure that the fabric (or more importantly the waterproof coating applied to the fabric) can withstand before water will pass through the fabric. This is measured by the waterhead or water column that the fabric can withstand so 2000mm refers to the fabric being waterproof when pressure applied by a column of water up to 2000mm high. Of course in a practical situation the most pressure a tent fly will experience is that created by a falling raindrop or wind driven rain and 2000mm is considered sufficient for that. Whereas a tent floor could experience more pressure ie when you kneel on the floor and there is water on the ground outside so tent floors should have a higher waterproof rating than the fly.

Tape sealed seams are pretty standard on synthetic materials and are a very effective way of sealing the holes punched through the fabric by the needle when sewing, most important in proofed synthetic fabrics where once the hole has gone through the fabric it will always be there. As opposed to fabrics with natural fibres like cotton which swell when wet and small holes like needle holes can seal up again.

Asian countries can produce tent material cheap but there is an American standard of quality or they won't import the material. In Asia just like anywhere else there are good manufacturers and bad manufacturers, to a large extent you get what you pay for. One of the advantages of manufacturing in Asia is access to excellent manufacturing technology and expert sewers.

Modern day material like the light weight 150D (density) Ripstop Polyester PU (poly urethane) is replacing the heavy water absorbent canvas, Ripstop stretches less than nylon and is stronger.

This is polyester taffeta (smooth woven fabric made from synthetic fibers with thicker threads weaved into the material at regular intervals). Thicker threads will prevent small rips in the Tent to get worse.

An internal pole will hold up a tent but with the forces of the tent material (pulling down by guide ropes) and external forces (wind, rain & weight of material absorbing water) a lot of pressure is on the centre pole, the interior space is more flexible (easier to fit double mattresses etc) without the centre pole

An external frame from which the tent hangs allows more flexible breathing and movement, the external fly which covers the frame, bears the forces of guide ropes and external forces.

Aluminium connections are stronger than nylon; this folding movement allows the frame to be one unit and folds out, allowing the tent to be erected in seconds.

I have had cotton with poly fly, dome, canvas & even ex-army wall tents of all sizes and designs over 40 years, and they will always be around.

The next generation of campers will say “did they make tents out of canvas in the old days with poles on the inside”.

I like the BlackWolf range (no affiliation) up in 60 seconds and for the first time I saw five different sizes in the one camp area, the BlackWolf tents had not moved in gail forced winds and heavy rain, where some dome & canvas tents ripped & camp trailer annexes shredded.

This type of tent has been erected during a sand storm in the Simpson Desert, torrential rains in Cape York and the below zero temperatures of the snow covered High Country.

Folds the size of a swag and fits at the back of front seat in the 4WD.

Check out my rig page.

<http://www.exploroz.com/Members/ViewRig.asp?RigKey=102915.875>



Lake Mary Woomera South Australia



BLACKWOLF 210 TURBO

Check out the BlackWolf web site <http://www.blackwolf.com.au/>

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