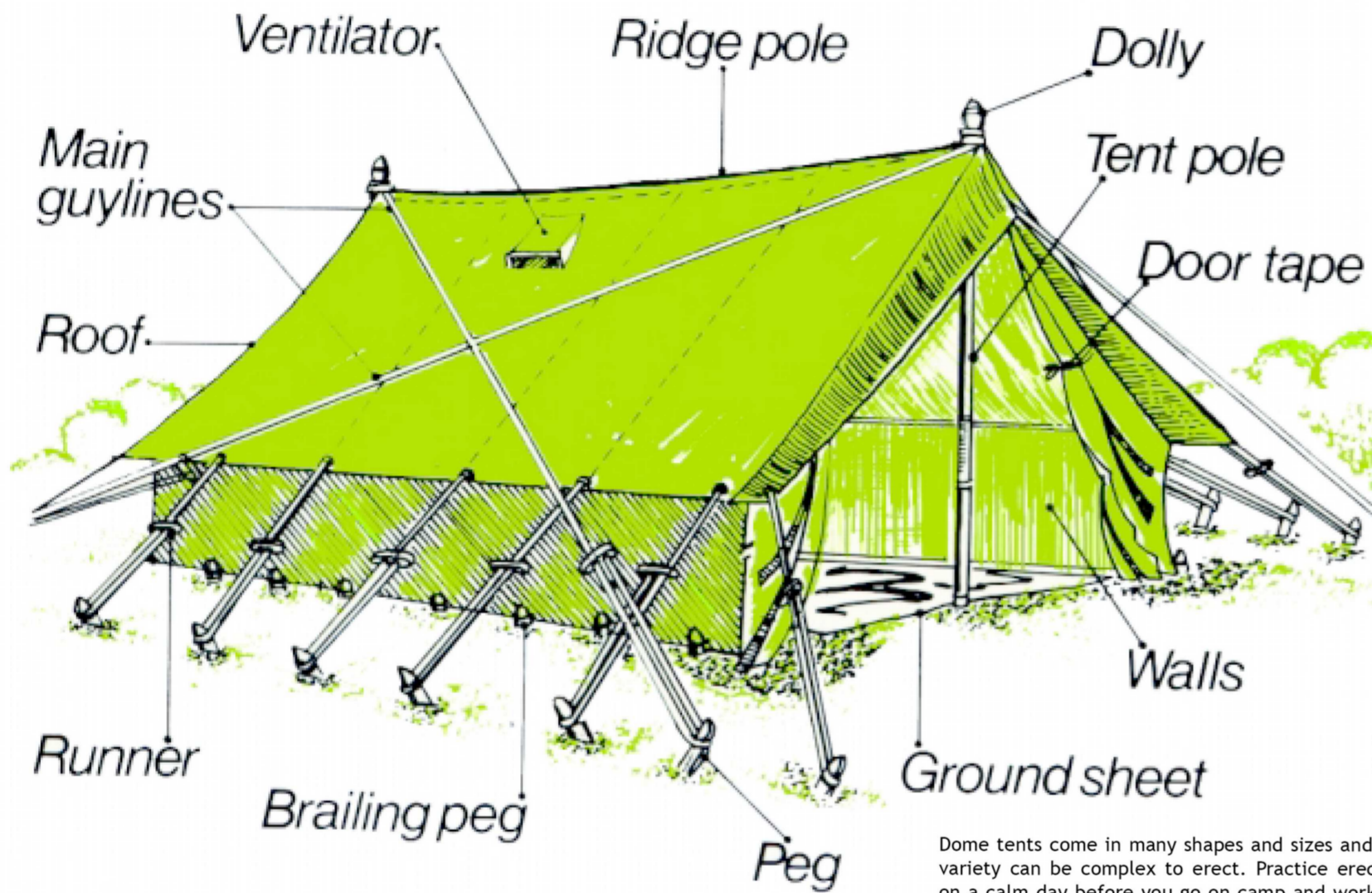


Tent Pitching

Tent pitching is a basic scout skill and perhaps one of the first learnt. Most Units use the traditional Icelandic tent which are hard wearing and last for years with care. Dome tents are also popular and are lighter to carry for hiking and short stay camps. Each tent type is pitched in its own way. Learning by doing is the best teacher. If you pitch it wrong it will let the rain in.

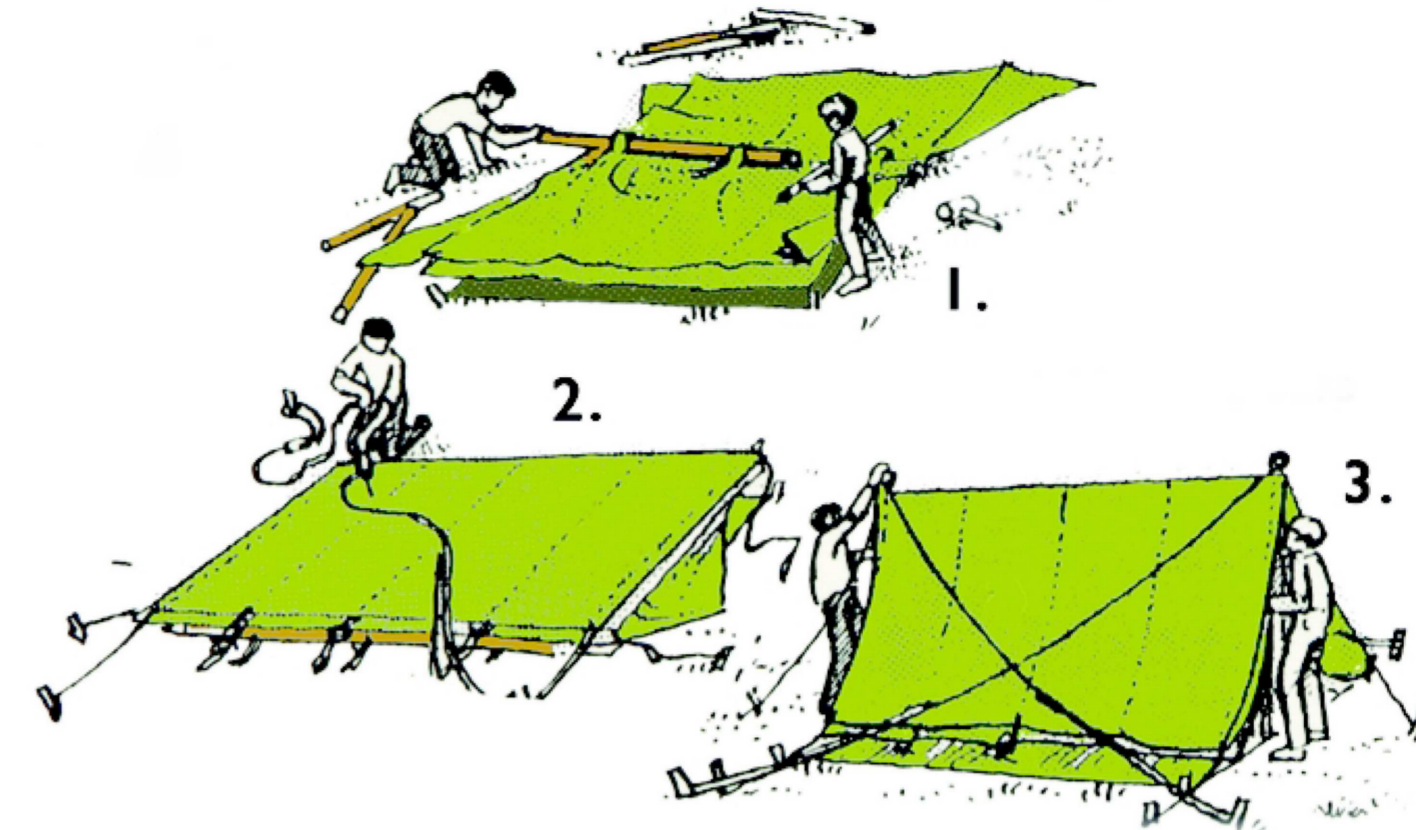
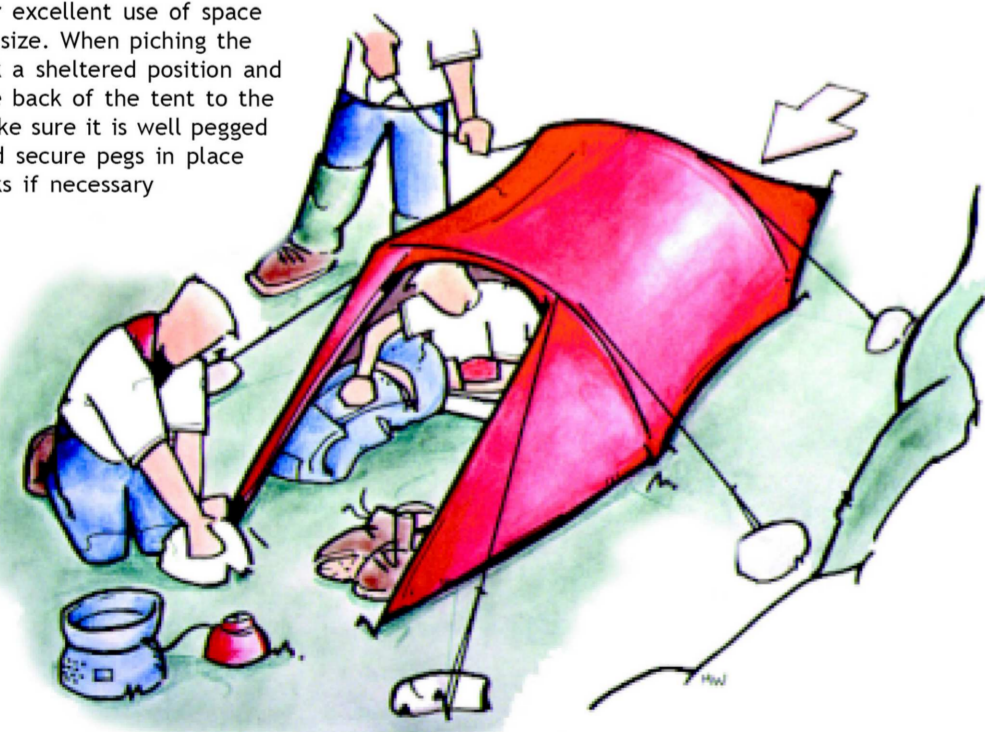
Some basic guidelines -
 don't pitch your tent under trees, rain will drop from leaves long after it has stopped. There is also the added danger in stormy weather of fallen branches. If the ground is slightly sloping pitch the tent so that your head will lie uphill. Wind direction is very important. Pitch your tent with the back to the wind and away from fires where smoke or sparks could be blown into or on the tent.



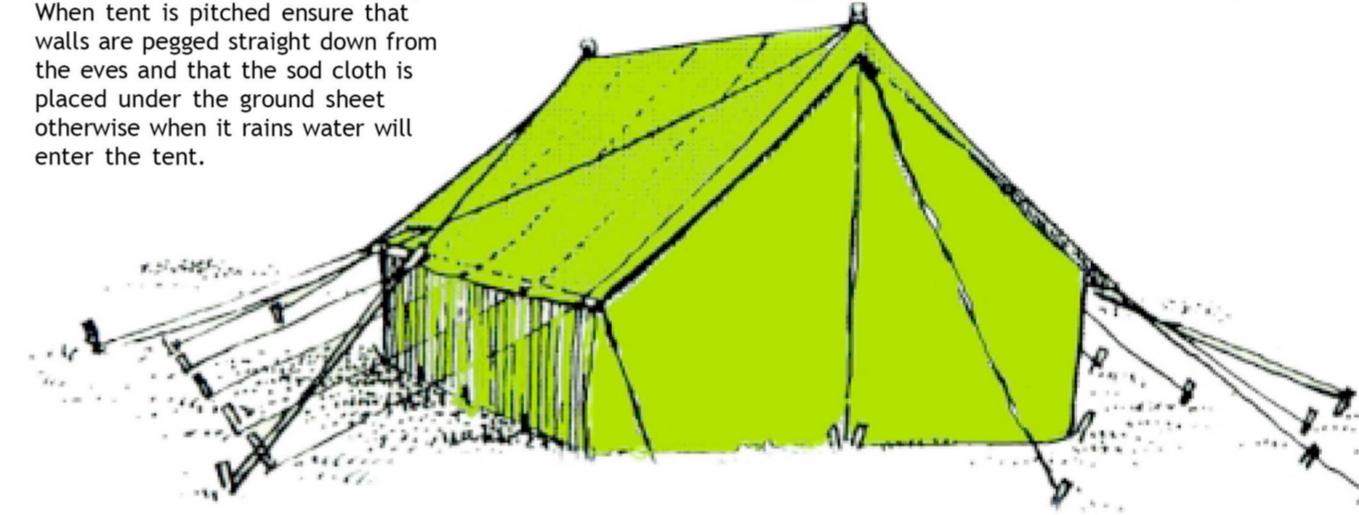
Dome tents come in many shapes and sizes and the larger variety can be complex to erect. Practice erecting the tent on a calm day before you go on camp and work out a quick simple method of erecting the tent so that when on camp your shelter can be erected quickly in any weather



Small dome and tunnel tents are easy to erect using flexible poles. They offer excellent use of space for their size. When pitching the tent seek a sheltered position and place the back of the tent to the wind. Make sure it is well pegged down and secure pegs in place with rocks if necessary



When tent is pitched ensure that walls are pegged straight down from the eaves and that the sod cloth is placed under the ground sheet otherwise when it rains water will enter the tent.



Keeping your tent tidy

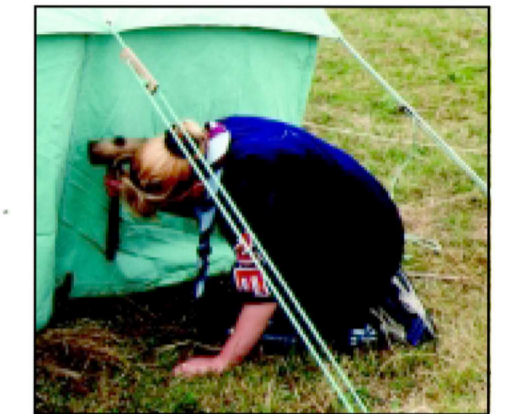
In small tents and indeed all tents your camping space needs to be managed. Doorways should be kept clear and tidy and equipment arranged so that it is easy to find. All cooking equipment and fuel should be left outside the tent under the flysheet.



Tent pitching is easy on a calm day. Practice pitching tents in all weather conditions so that it can be done quickly when at camp and provide shelter as soon as possible for your Patrol.



Two members of Patrol to hold poles straight or close door loops until main guy ropes are e. Then peg out the walls.



Small metal pegs (bulldog type) are better for securing the base of the walls than the traditional small wooden peg



A tent needs to be brailed every day to allow air to circulate within the tent. Groundsheets should also be removed during brailing, weather permitting to allow grass to breathe.