

# Patrol Equipment Procedures After a Campout

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## Packing up at Camp

Under the direction of the Camp Patrol Leader, the Patrol Quartermaster (or suitable stand-in) should ensure that the Patrol does the following tasks to prepare Patrol equipment for transport home.

1. Usually, the black ground cloth (plastic) is wet and dirty underneath, even when it did not rain. Fold the tent up on the black plastic, but do NOT fold the black plastic in with the tent. Fold it separately, wet side in. It may be helpful (if drying the tent indoors at home) to sweep or shake the dirt out now at camp. **MAKE SURE ALL STAKES ARE ACCOUNTED FOR.**
2. One of the Scouts in each tent is to take that tent home to be dried out.
3. The patrol grubmaster is to take the chuck box home to clean out.
  - Do not cross contaminate the chuck box - leave out dirty cookware.
  - The wash bins are usually dirty and wet, wipe them out with a paper towel first.
  - Never put food into the chuck box.
  - Make sure the stove hose adapter is placed inside the stove.
  - Make sure chuck box supplies are put back into the chuck box, not in food boxes.
  - Make sure the lid to the soap and bleach are snug.
4. The rest of the gear (table, canopy, water jug, lantern) can go home with anyone in the patrol.
5. Empty the water jug.
6. Clean the table.
7. Careful when handling the lantern, the mantle is fragile. Place in vehicle upright.
8. Pack the canopy right side up in the bag (canopy legs on bag end with wheels). Otherwise, the canopy top, pinched between the ground and the frame, may develop a hole. **MAKE SURE ALL CANOPY STAKES ARE ACCOUNTED FOR.**

## Cleaning and Inspecting at Home

The Patrol Quartermaster is responsible for ensuring that the Patrol Equipment is returned to him in clean, dry, working condition. He is to notify a Scout Troop Quartermaster immediately if any equipment is damaged or missing.

### 1. **Tents.**

- ALL tent components need to be dried out completely.
- The tent can be dried out by setting up, but it is acceptable to hang it over a line if it is turned a couple of times during the drying time (usually a couple of days). Open doors.
- Use caution with the coated side (the shinier side) of the tent fly - the coating is the waterproofing that keeps your tent dry! Do not scrape against sharp things or pavement. Even "rope burn" can damage it.
- Clean the black plastic if it is dirty – wet rag works well.
- Ensure the stakes, poles, and bags are also dry.
- Roll the tent with the plastic on the inside (see tent folding procedure).

### 2. **Chuck Box.** The chuck box is to be cleaned by the grub master for the campout - this task (like grubmaster) is then shared among the patrol members.

- Generally, camp cleaning methods are not suitable for long term care of the cookware, it should be cleaned or at least inspected thoroughly at home after each campout.
- Although all the cookware may not have been used, the best policy is to clean all of it.
- Using a dishwasher is acceptable to clean most of the cookware. However, dishwashers may be harsh on some items, so the TLC of hand washing will give the best results.

- Just as at camp, use caution when handling the non-stick cookware - do not scrape or bump metal edges against the cooking surface.
  - Do not use any scrub pad to clean non-stick surfaces at first. The cookware and the griddle have a black non-stick surface. Rub with sponge or cloth first, soak if necessary. As a last resort, gently scrub with used scrub pad (they are softer) or a scrub pad that is safe for non-stick. Gently scrub until the stuck on food is removed. This may result in a scouring of the surface and reduce the lifetime of the pan, but it is better for cooking (and the pan) to remove all food residue.
  - Check the plastic utensils for stuck on food and remove. If the spatula is melted on the tip, it can be repaired by scraping with a knife and sanding smooth. (**Hint:** do not rest the spatula onto the pan while cooking).
  - If the utensil pouch is very dirty, wash it by hand. Do not machine wash.
  - Clean out the wash bins - they build up grime after each campout.
  - Clean the stove - it also has grime built up after each campout. Most grease cutting spray cleaners are safe for the stove surface, inside and out. You do not need to remove the burners or the stainless steel platform. Discoloration of the grate is OK, but remove soot and food residue.
  - Clean the inside of the chuck box using a wet rag or paper towel. Cleaning the outside will keep it looking nice too and help keep vehicles clean.
  - Make sure EVERYTHING is 100% dry before packing up, including the anti-skid stove carpet. Moisture build up inside the box will corrode the aluminum cookware. Refer to the box lid for the packing order. Store the griddle face down on pasta strainer so that metal does not contact it.
  - Store soap, bleach, and sponge in plastic container. Ensure all these items are dry, including the sponge.
  - Replenish disposable items as necessary. Refer to the box lid for a list of these items.
3. **Canopy.** The canopy needs to be dried out thoroughly. It is usually damp from at least morning dew from a campout - even if not apparent - so the best policy is the dry it out. It doesn't need to be set up fully, just removed from the bag and partially opened. Storing the stakes in the stake bag with the pointy side up will help keep the bag from developing holes. As noted before, store canopy in bag right side up in bag.
4. **Water Jug.** Care of the water jug - your source of cooking or drinking water - is very important. Remove the valve and leave it in the open position to dry. Shake out all of the water drops out of the jug, wait a few days, and shake it out again. Let air dry (with cap removed) for a week or longer, right side up so water won't collect in handle. Inspect to ensure no drops remain inside. For long-term storage, replace the cap to keep out bugs, dust, etc.
- Note:** Although the cap is designed so that the spout can be inverted and stored inside the jug, it is best not to do this when the jug is full of water. The spout is dirty!
5. **Lantern.** Handle the lantern gently; a shock can break the mantle. Check to make sure the mantle is in good condition before using it. It needs to be replaced if it has holes the size of a pencil or larger. Store and transport the lantern upright.
6. **Table.** Ensure the table is clean. Do not stack with other tables in the shed if it is wet.

### Storage

- The Patrol QM should store all Patrol Equipment if possible so that the Patrol knows where to find it.
- If necessary, since they are large, the canopy and table can be checked back in to the shed until the next campout.