

**SECRET CREEK**

# **TENT PITCHING GUIDE**



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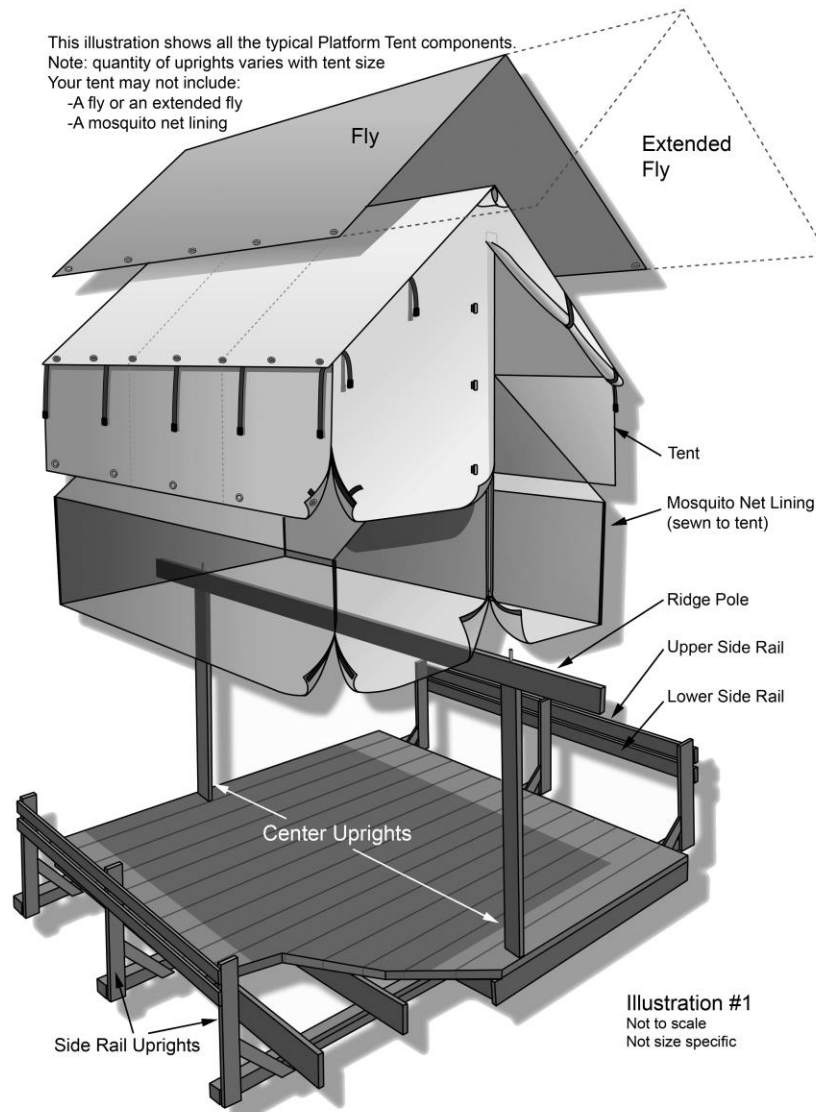
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## Instructions for Pitching a Destination Platform Tent from Secret Creek

Please check the contents of your tent packages against your packing list or sales acknowledgement. You may have Deck Hardware or a Pole Set (including center uprights and ridgepole). Deck Hardware includes hanger bolts and nylon wing nuts.

Platform Tents are designed to be pitched on a platform in the configuration shown below:



If you purchased your Pole Set from Secret Creek, you have been provided with **machine stress rated** lumber. MSR lumber is recommended for all ridge and center upright poles.

You will need at least one 8' stepladder—two stepladders are recommended. A variable drive drill, with 3/16" drill bit and hex nut drivers (1/4", 5/16" & 3/8"), is also handy to have.

The quantity of center upright poles and side poles varies with tent size. Please see appropriate platform tent plans for your size tent, attached here; or find the platform plans on our website: <https://coloradoyurt.com/tent-tech-specs/> Platform tent plans are available in five sizes, with and without extended fly:

- 12' x 14' with pole set
- 14' x 16' with pole set
- 16' x 20' with pole set
- 12' x 14' for extended fly with pole set
- 14' x 16' for extended fly with pole set
- 16' x 20' for extended fly with pole set

### Pitching the Tent

1. Spread the tent out on the platform. Platform tents have an entrance at both ends. Typically the tent is placed on the platform so the back entrance is flush with the back of the platform. If you have a stove pipe outlet make sure your tent is oriented so the stove pipe outlet is positioned correctly.



Spread the tent out on the platform. (See Step 1.)



Tie the sidewall guy ropes to the lower side rail. (Step 2.)

2. Tie the sidewall guy ropes to the lower side rail, loosely, raising the tent slightly.
3. At both ends of the tent above the entrances near the peak there is an exit hole for the ridge pole, typically sized for a 2 x 6. On tents without an extended fly or with no fly, the ridge pole extends 1' beyond the front and back of the tent. On tents with an extended fly the ridge pole extends 1' beyond the back of the tent and 8' beyond the front of the tent. Sheet metal couplers may be included. See the size specific drawing. Thread the ridge pole through the exit holes in the tent. Larger tents have ridge pole couplers inside the tent or under the extended fly area or both. If you have a coupler under the extended fly (not under the tent) you can wait until the tent is raised, then add the final section of ridge pole and center uprights.



Thread the ridge pole through the exit holes in the tent. (Step 3.)



Slip the center pole pins through the pre-drilled holes in the ridge pole. (See Step 5.)

4. Once the ridge pole is through the exit holes (and properly coupled together if necessary), align the grommets in the top of tent with the predrilled holes provided in the ridge.
5. Now place the center upright poles in position under the tent. Lay them flat on the deck with the 1/2" steel pin near the ridge at a right angle to the ridge pole. All platform tents have upright poles inside the tent 2" from the front and back. Larger tents have a third, mid-span pole between the front and back on the interior of the tent. (Note: the mid-span pole pin goes into the ridgepole but does not penetrate the tent. See size specific drawing.)

Once you have each of the interior center upright poles laying flat on the deck, turn the ridge pole to a nearly horizontal plane and slip the center pole pins through the pre-drilled holes in the ridge pole and through the grommets in the ridge of the tent.

6. The ridge pole and tent ridge are ready to be lifted. The ridge lifting process requires one person on each upright pole. On heavy tents it is advisable to lift the ridge pole in stages by raising it part way and setting it on saw horses or the top of stable stepladders; then change your grip on the upright and continue lifting.

Lift each upright simultaneously raising the ridge pole and tent until each upright is approximately vertical, directly under the ridge pole.

Once the upright poles and ridge are stable you can center them on the platform, equidistant from each side, and place them correctly from front to back per the size specific drawing. You may optionally secure the base of each upright pole to the platform with the provided L-Brackets and screws (two L-Brackets per upright).

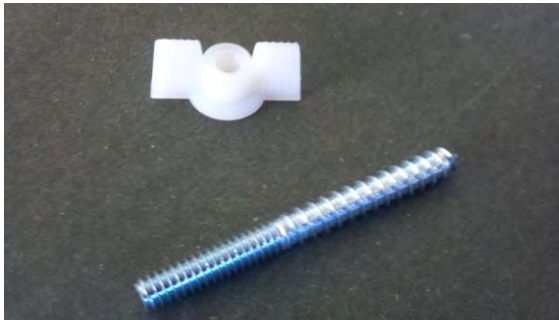


Now tighten the guy ropes to the lower side rail. (Step 7.)

If you have a coupler under the extended fly (not under the tent) you can wait until the tent is raised, then add the final section of ridge pole. (Steps 3. & 10.)

7. Now tighten the guy ropes to the lower side rail. Be sure to make them as tight as possible to reduce "wind whip" (movement of the tent due to wind.) which will cause wear and tear. Do not use mechanical devices to tighten. Close both tent doors, front and back completely before tightening the guy ropes. Zip all mosquito-net doors closed.
8. Fasten the tent to the rim joist around the perimeter of the platform. Number 3 brass grommets (1/2" inside diameter, I.D.) have been set around the bottom hem of your tent. Attach the hardware by screwing it directly through the brass grommets and into the rim joists. If you have purchased Deck Hardware from Secret Creek you have received a quantity of hanger bolts and nylon wing nuts. If you have not purchased Deck Hardware from Secret Creek these items are available from most hardware stores or you can use 1/4" x 2" lag screws.

9. You can screw the hanger bolts into the rim joist by placing the fine thread end of the bolt directly into a drill chuck. Screw the hanger bolts into the rim joist with the drill. If you experience any splitting of the rim joist, pre-drill with an appropriately size drill bit (3/16").



Hanger bolt with nylon wing nut. Place the hanger bolt directly into the drill chuck. (Step 9.)

As you attach the walls of the tent to the rim joists pull the fabric taut. Pull directly downward to avoid diagonal wrinkles in the tent walls. If you have a mosquito net lining, align the grommets in the bottom of the netting with the grommets in the bottom of the tent.



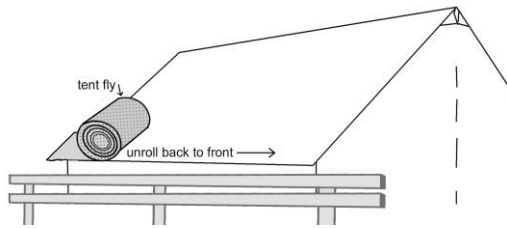
Screw the hanger bolts into the rim joist with the drill. (Step 9.)

### Installing the Fly

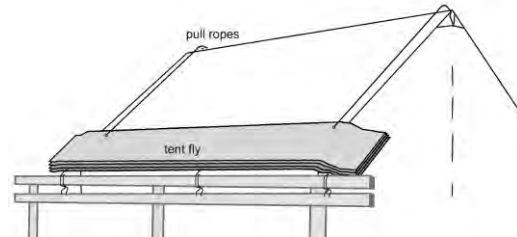
10. The Standard Fly is designed to extend 12" beyond the front and back of the tent. The Extended Fly extends 12" beyond the back of the tent and 8' beyond the front of the tent.

If you have an extended fly you need to complete the assembly of your ridge pole before you begin installing the fly. Slip the remaining length of ridge pole into the galvanized steel coupler and install the remaining upright poles vertically under the ridge by slipping the 1/2" diameter steel pins into the predrilled holes provided in the ridge pole. Center the remaining ridge poles from side to side and place them from front to back per the appropriate drawing.

11. Your Tent Fly has been folded so that it can be placed on the roof of the tent near the eave *on the back left side as you face the tent*. Roll the fly open from back to front, resting it on the roof of the tent, near the eave.



Roll the fly open from back to front. (Step 11.)



Throw the pull ropes over the ridge and pull the fly up and over the tent. (Step 13.)

12. The fly has been "accordion folded" so the top edge is ready to be pulled up and over the ridge of the tent. Before you pull the fly over the ridge, temporarily tie off the left side guy ropes to the upper side rail on the left. You'll go back and tighten the guy ropes later.
13. Use the "pull ropes" provided on the corners of the fly. Throw the pull ropes over the ridge and pull the fly up and over the tent. Discard the pull ropes and temporarily tie the guy ropes on the right side of the tent to the upper side rail.
14. The tent fly has #5 brass grommets (5/8" I.D.) along the ridgeline which correspond to the grommets in the ridgeline of the tent, plus an additional grommet at the front and back edge of the fly at the ridgeline. Standing on a ladder, make sure the grommets in the fly align with the upright pole pins where they poke through the top of the tent along the ridge.
15. Now tighten the guy ropes along the sides of the fly to the upper side rails. Be sure to make them as tight as possible to reduce "wind whip" (movement of the fly due to wind.) which will cause wear and tear. Do not use mechanical devices to tighten.



Tighten the guy ropes along the sides of the fly with the upper side rails. (Step 16.)

17. The tent and fly pitching process is complete. Now inspect your work. Make sure all the guy ropes are tight and the tent and fly are stretched down and taut from front to back. Make necessary adjustments to make sure your tent doesn't have any wrinkles.

THE END





16' X 20' Platform Tent with Extended Fly.



Custom frame and porch rail.



10' x 12' Platform Tent with Standard Fly.



Kitchen in guest tent.



12' x 14' Platform Tents with Bug Net Lining. No Fly.



Custom tent frame by New England timber framer.