

SET UP INSTRUCTIONS STRATOSPHERE



One person shelter designed to keep out the worst of the elements

1. POLES

First unroll the shelter and locate the pole bag and separate the poles, clip the sections together to make a continuous pole, the poles are held together by elastic to help. There are two channels at the head of the shelter with two colour coded pole sleeves, once the poles are loosely inserted put the end of the green pole into the eyelet with the corresponding colour tab on the webbing strap. Then put the black pole into the remaining strap.

Apply pressure to the end of the pole and pass through the sleeve forcing the other end of the green pole into the remaining green eyelet. Then repeat for the last black pole end into the final eyelet.

Insert both poles first (before applying pressure) put them into the outer most holes first to minimise pressure. The shelter and poles react differently at different temperatures if the canopy is not tight enough you can then select the other hole to improve tension.

The tension just needs to be enough so water channels off the top of the hood.

You can seriously damage the unit if the poles are inserted incorrectly as it can tear out the stress points and breach the waterproof sealing.

Eyelet holes are not for the stakes (which will not fit!) the stakes go through the loops placed around the shelter.

2. PEG OUT

The temptation is as it's self-supporting is not to peg it out, but the shelter really benefits from being put under tension. Use all 7 pegs if you can to ensure that the fabric is pulled as tight as possible. The peg at the back is most important as this allows for ventilation, some airflow is required to help with venting (and also breathing) the fabric is moisture permeable but will not allow air to pass through it.

3. POOLING

Unlike a conventional tent there is a possibility of water pooling if there is not enough definition in the shape of the shelter. If water builds up and then channels off it can overwhelm the zip flap system



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4. ZIP FLAP

After packing the zip and flap are not always zipped and velcroed up correctly so it's best to take time just to check and run the zip up and down a couple of times and then straighten out and re apply the velcro tabs to ensure the flap sits correctly, the zip is always going to be a weak spot.

It's worth spending time when you are zipping yourself in to ensure all the velcro attachments align and are correctly connected, the stiffened flap will help with the last bit. It's not enough just to zip the shelter to make an effective seal.

5. CONDENSATION

Condensation is always a concern with this type of bivvi, due to the nature of the lightweight construction and tight fit some condensation is always inevitable. The system relies on a temperature differential from the inside to the outside to allow the moisture vapour (Sweat) to move from the inside out. The better the temperature differential the better it works.

6. VENTING

Condensation can be minimised by when possible allowing the shelter to vent, if conditions permit leave the side zip open or the mesh velcro panel open so some air can flow. If using over several days if possible allow both the sleeping bag and shelter to air to remove any residual moisture.

7. OVERHEATING

Overheating can also cause moisture to form within the bag so the selection of the appropriate sleeping bag for the conditions can help. If there is too much insulation the distance between the body and the outer shell of the shelter the vapour can turn back to water and then not pass through the outer shell.

TO TAKE DOWN THE SHELTER

Release both poles when packing up, remember to push not pull through the sleeves, Lay out the shelter on the floor and roll from the foot section to the head, the main thing to remember is to pack from the bottom to allow the air to escape.

Folding the edges of the shelter over to make the roll approximately the size of the storage bag will make it easier to repack. Keep the roll tight to ensure no air is trapped making it difficult to put back into the storage bag.

