

TEK-TREK Innovative Solutions Since 1986

Australia's No. 1 Supplier
Since 2010
12 Volt Electric Blankets

electrowarmth **Comfy Cruise**
Snuggle Me! **Snuggle Up!**

PO BOX 1145, MITCHAM NORTH VIC 3132

Tel: (03) 9878 0311

Email: tektrekplc@bigpond.com

Web: www.tektrek.com.au

How To Insulate a Tent For Warm WINTER CAMPING



Materials to be considered for your ground tent/ camper trailer/ rooftop tent:

1. Emergency blanket
2. Waterproof tarps for under the tent
3. Heavy-duty waterproof tarps to cover the tent
4. Rope & may be a few spring loaded clips
5. Bubble wrap (10mm)
6. Corrugated cardboard (2-3 layer)
7. Ground mat
8. Natural insulation
9. Windbreaks

TEK TREK Innovative Solutions Since 1986

Australia's No. 1 Supplier
Since 2010
12 Volt Electric Blankets

electrowarmth **Comfy Cruise**
Snuggle Me! **Snuggle Up!**

PO BOX 1145, MITCHAM NORTH VIC 3132

Tel: (03) 9878 0311

Email: tektrekplc@bigpond.com

Web: www.tektrek.com.au



There's nothing quite like camping during the winter. It's a magical feeling to wake up to see snow and feel the cold breeze on your cheeks while enjoying a warm cup of campfire coffee.

Many people who love to camp in every other season miss out on the beauty of wintertime camping because they are worried about staying warm through the night. Even experienced campers may not know how easy it is to insulate your tent and set up a warm, comfortable escape in the middle of the snowy mountains or outback Australia or outback Australia.

Insulating a tent for winter camping sounds complicated, but it's actually an extremely easy thing to do. The process does not take long and only requires a few pieces of extra relatively cheap equipment.

Before venturing out to enjoy nature as a nomad, you should **plan where you'll camp** and what you'll need to **stay safe and warm**. Camping during the winter months does pose a slight challenge, but the obstacles can add some fun to your trip once you know how to handle them!

Once you know how to insulate a tent for winter camping and experience what it feels like to be in a warm, insulated tent in the middle of the f-r-e-e-z-i-n-g cold, you'll wonder why it took you that long to get there.

What You Will Need to Follow This Guide

To fully complete this **step-by-step guide for insulating your tent** in cold weather, there's some gear you'll need to already have on hand. All of these things are available in outdoor activities stores or online from various sellers.

The only tools you'll need to insulate your tent this winter are:

- Emergency blanket or thermal blanket
- Two waterproof tarps for under the tent
- Two heavy-duty waterproof tarps to cover the tent
- Rope & may be a few spring loaded clips
- Bubble wrap (10mm)
- Cardboard
- Ground mat

The materials of your gear will make all the difference at a cold camping site. You want your waterproof tarps and ground mat to be thick enough to withstand moisture and maybe even freezing temperatures.

These are the items that will make the most considerable difference for insulation — the sturdier and heavier these materials are, the easier it'll be to warm up your tent and keep it warm through the night.

The rope, bubble wrap, and cardboard may seem silly, but these items can make a massive difference for warmth while you're out in the woods. Bubble wrap is a natural insulator as is cardboard which can also be used to absorb moisture from the ground.

It's also worth noting that smaller tents are much more comfortable to insulate than larger ones. The less space and air in the tent, the less work you have to put in to insulate the entire area.

Some retailers offer winter-specific tents that sometimes include insulation in the walls, ceiling, and floor to make staying warm that much easier. But luckily for you — there's no need to splurge on a new tent because you're about to learn the easy process of self-insulating whatever tent you want.

Be sure to take each step slowly the first time you are attempting the insulation process. It's worth testing your tent insulation abilities before heading to a snow-covered or outback campsite and freezing if something goes wrong!



How to Insulate Your Tent: Step-By-Step Instructions

Now that you have your gear ready to be put to work, you can learn how to insulate a tent for winter camping.

The insulation process steps don't take long, but they should happen in order for accessibility purposes. Your tent might not look pretty when you finish, but at least you will be warm inside!

You should work from the outside to the inside of your tent by securing the airways in this order:

- Ground insulation (outside the tent)
- Top insulation
- Wall insulation
- Ground insulation (inside the tent)
- Windbreaks

Natural insulation These insulation techniques are tried-and-true by some of the most confident campers around. With this tutorial, you'll be able to find warmth in even the coldest of camping sites.

1. Ground Insulation (Outside the Tent)

Claim your camping area by laying down your two waterproof tarps, ideally one on top of the other, to mark your tent's space.

These tarps will act as a shield between you and the cold, possibly wet ground. The tarps will repel the coldness and keep that air from coming through the floor. A thick, durable ground cover is an essential part of the insulation process because it's where a large amount of coldness can seep in.

The tarps can extend beyond your tent's limits if the ground in the area is dry. The more surrounding land you cover with insulation, the warmer you are likely to be. If you're in a pinch or want an extra layer of protection, you can also lay down a large piece or two of cardboard between the ground and the tent.

You can peg down the tarp in all four corners or place weights in your tent's corners to keep the tarps from flying away or moving during the night.

On top of your ground insulation, you'll want to make sure you have a pad for your bedding and a warm, insulated sleeping bag. The more layers you have between you and the ground, the better off you'll be. Avoid air mattresses as they can suck the heat out of your bedding.

2. Top Insulation

Insulating the top of your tent requires using a thermal or emergency blanket. You'll want to find ones like this, made of a polyethylene film and aluminium. Be sure to purchase more than one, so you always have a blanket available for emergencies.

Duct tape or fasten the blanket all over the top of the inside of your tent with the aluminium of the blanket facing the inside. This way, the blanket will reflect your body heat instead of dissipating through the tent walls.

Though the blanket seems thin, it gets used in emergencies because of its reasonable heat-saving properties. You'll notice the difference immediately when you situate the blanket overhead for the first time.



3. Wall Insulation

Continuing with the idea of using emergency blankets as a heat reflector, you'll next cover the inside walls of your tent with more blankets, if necessary.

However, no matter how many blankets you have pinned up around your tent, cold air will still try to push through and come inside your space. One way to insulate your tent walls from the outside is by wrapping bubble wrap around the entire tent.

Though it might sound funny, bubble wrap has excellent insulation properties. Using it outside your tent creates a second layer of safety between you and the elements during the night.

Interesting Note: 10mm bubble wrap has an insulating rating of R1 – about half to a third of the roof cavity insulating rating of most Australian homes. Bubble wrap is also a fair insulator on top of air beds to stop heat escaping downwards from your bedding.

You can top that off with a heavy-duty tarp covering the entire tent to create an extra layer of insulation. Cold air will still travel around among these layers, but the potential of keeping warm air within the tent becomes more and more possible with every layer applied. This is how double and triple glazed windows work in houses.



4. Ground Insulation (Inside the Tent)

Insulating the ground will be the final use of the emergency blankets. On top of your tent floor, which should be resting on layers of tarps and cardboard outside, you should place an emergency blanket that reflects the inside.

Since most emergency blankets have reflectors on either side, the blanket will help reflect warm air within the tent and reflect cold air to go back toward the ground.

When you set up this blanket, tape the sides and corners to the tent's walls instead of to the ground, since cold air travels near the bottom, the area around 12-15cm above the ground is especially susceptible to cold drafts.

Pinning, clipping or taping the blanket above the ground will create a primarily enclosed space that should keep heat inside without letting in too much cold air.

TEK-TREK Innovative Solutions Since 1986

Australia's No. 1 Supplier
Since 2010
12 Volt Electric Blankets

electrowarmth **Comfy Cruise**
Snuggle Me! **Snuggle Up!**

PO BOX 1145, MITCHAM NORTH VIC 3132

Tel: (03) 9878 0311

Email: tektrekplc@bigpond.com

Web: www.tektrek.com.au



5. Windbreaks

Because wind is such a significant part of heat loss in the winter, it's essential to build a windbreak that will protect your entire tent.

Ensure the entrance to your tent is downwind and use surrounding snow or other objects to build a wall that will stand tall in front of your tent. This wall will help decrease the amount of wind or back drafts that can reach your tent, making a huge difference for warmth.

You can also opt to build multiple walls in several areas surrounding your tent. The walls won't hurt your tent during the wintertime and should only help resist the amount of wind that will attempt to creep in through your tent walls.



How To Stay Warm In A Tent

Setting up your warm, insulated tent is just the first step to keep you warm in your tent through the night. Make sure to bring tools to build a campfire and maybe pack that portable tent heater too, just in case! **Beware of carbon monoxide gas poisoning from portable gas heaters. Do not use in poorly ventilated tents or caravans.**

Insulating yourself is the final, yet most crucial part of staying warm on a winter camping trip. Wearing multiple layers of clothes, [using a 12 volt Tek Trek electric blanket](#), holding onto heat packets, and keeping your head, feet and hands covered are easy ways to maintain warmth within yourself.

Layering up is one of the easiest and most recommended ways to stay warm in any environment. The multiple layers work together to keep you cosy without being too bulky or over-the-top.

Some items you should bring every time you camp in cold weather include:

- Thermal underwear
- Warm hat
- Gloves
- Heat packs
- [Battery powered electric blanket](#)
- Sleeping pad
- Sleeping bag liner
- Warm sleeping bag

TEK TREK Innovative Solutions Since 1986

Australia's No. 1 Supplier
Since 2010
12 Volt Electric Blankets

electrowarmth Comfy Cruise
Snuggle Me! Snuggle Up!

PO BOX 1145, MITCHAM NORTH VIC 3132

Tel: (03) 9878 0311

Email: tektrekplc@bigpond.com

Web: www.tektrek.com.au

Another easy way to avoid catching a chill is by keeping any wet gear outside of your tent. The moisture will create issues and bring down the temperature of your tent if left inside.

