

TENT MANUAL



WHY THIS TENT MANUAL?

- You are thinking about buying a tent from Tatonka. This manual will help you to choose the right one.
- You have already bought a tent from Tatonka. Good choice! It is still worth reading this manual.
- You are just looking for tips about camping. In this manual you can make yourself smart!

It tells you all about quality tents from Tatonka, and contains lots of useful information on camping – not just for first-timers.



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1. QUALITY TENTS FROM TATONKA

Tatonka has been manufacturing high-quality trekking, travel and camping tents for **over thirty years**. Our development team is constantly working on new solutions to make tents optimally usable for a wide range of activities in the great outdoors. We focus on suitability for practical use, comfort and durability. Which is why we apply the highest standards to material and processing. Tatonka produces various tents for different requirements – you'll find a complete overview in our current catalog or at www.tatonka.com.

MANUFACTURING

Tatonka tents are manufactured in **our own SA8000-certified factory** in Vietnam under fair and transparent working conditions. Before leaving the factory, each tent is set up and carefully checked for material and workmanship quality as well as completeness.

SCOPE OF DELIVERY

The scope of delivery of our tents includes all individual parts required for pitching, including a sufficient number of guy ropes and standard pegs. Tent groundsheets and vestibule pads, additional guy ropes and special tent pegs are available as accessories.

TENT LINES

Tatonka offers tunnel tents in two different lines: robust **Allround Tents** and very lightweight, heavy-duty **Expert and Expert LT Tents**. Learn more about choosing the right tent under item 4.





2. WARRANTY

We provide you with all our experience through your **Tatonka retailer**. He is the **competent partner** who can deal with your questions and problems.

- Have your dealer confirm the purchase of your tent by date and stamp on the enclosed inspection/complaint card.
- > Warranty service is only provided by your dealer directly to Tatonka. Please note: A free repair or replacement of a defective tent can only be provided if the cause is production-related. Damage caused by wear and tear or improper use is excluded from the warranty.

WITH TATONKA, THE STATUTORY WARRANTY PROVISIONS APPLY.

- Only the best materials are used for Tatonka products. Without exception, carefully quality-controlled goods are delivered.
- However, if something is not in order, we will of course provide a warranty within the statutory period.
- Please send the cleaned item to us via your Tatonka retailer - we will make every effort to rectify the problem as quickly as possible.
- A defective product will, at our discretion, either be replaced or we will restore its usability by repair.

- The warranty is valid only if the product has been used for its intended purpose and under normal conditions. Excluded from the warranty is damage due to improper handling, negligence or other causes, as well as normal wear and tear of fabrics, coatings or zippers.
- The warranty does not cover further claims, in particular compensation for consequential damages.

3. THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WHAT A TENT CANNOT DO OR: A TENT IS NOT A HOTEL ROOM.

A quality tent is not cheap – it is all the more annoying when false expectations give the impression of a bad investment or the tent breaks down prematurely due to incorrect handling. **The following points are therefore important to know:**

- Even the best tent may not be waterproof. This is because it is sewn together from individual fabric segments. Water can penetrate the seams under certain circumstances. You can find out what to do about this under point 6 – "Sealing the seams".
- ✓ No tent lasts a lifetime. Every material ages, and tents are exposed to weather and especially UV radiation. See point 8 – "Tent aging" for more details.
- Condensation is a natural process when camping. It depends on a number of factors – including temperature, humidity, and the number of sleepers. For tips on how to reduce condensation, see point 8 – "Condensation".
- Even aluminum tent poles can break if handled incorrectly, if too much force is applied or after a long service life. You can find out what to do in this case under point 7 – "Repair".





WHAT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND

Have your dealer tell you all about the tent you are interested in, including its assembly and disassembly. Ask him about practical tips, new materials and important points.

THE FOLLOWING TIPS APPLY IN PRINCIPLE TO TENT ASSEMBLY:

- Follow the instructions in the pitching manual when pitching and dismantling your tent.
- Pay attention to the careful handling of the poles. Carefully slide the individual pole segments into each other and protect the arches from dirt.
- If possible, pitch your tent in the shade: Modern tent fabrics are extremely light, waterproof and tear-resistant, but they are subject to natural aging, which is extremely accelerated, especially under UV radiation.
- Remove all stones and other sharp objects from the area where you wish to erect the tent.

- Always use a groundsheet to protect the tent floor and keep it waterproof. Groundsheets are also available from Tatonka.
- > Never clean your tent in the washing machine: Chemicals, cleaning agents or washing impregnations attack the coating of the tent. To find out, how to clean your tent, if this should be necessary, please go to item 6 "Cleaning".

4. CHOOSING THE RIGHT TENT

Before you buy a tent, give some thought to when and how you want to use it. The following questions will help you find the optimum tent:

- ✓ **Number of people:** Will you be using the tent on your own, with family, or with a group?
- Weight/packing size: Do you need a particularly light tent with a small packing size because you want to carry it yourself for long distances on trekking tours or because you want to take it with you on a bicycle or canoe trip, for example?
- Ease of use: Do you put up and take down the tent in a different place every day?
- Lying comfort/storage: Are you looking for a relatively comfortable tent or will you be happy in a small space? For instance, do you also want to store your bike in the vestibule?

TUNNEL TENTS BY TATONKA ARE YOUR RELIABLE COMPANION:

- Tunnel tents are supported by at least two parallel pole arches. These must be tensioned lengthwise, which is when the tent acquires its shape.
- Tunnel tents, with their comparatively steep walls, offer very good space utilization, or in other words, they are quite light in relation to their size.
- The inner and outer tent are coupled together, which allows for quick pitching

and dismantling.

- If the tent needs to be taken down in the rain, the inner tent can be unhooked and packed away dry. The outer tent is also the first to be put up again the next time.
- Properly erected, i.e. with the narrow side into the wind, tunnel tents are very wind stable.





TENT LINES FROM TATONKA

Tatonka offers tunnel tents in two tent lines and in various sizes. The tent lines differ in material and features.

Allround Tents: The Allround Tents from Tatonka are very robust, and they are ideal for trekking, tours of all kinds and camping. There is a wide selection, ranging from one-person tents to tents with extra-long sleeping areas and to stand-up family tents. The one-, two- and three-person tents can be stowed in a trekking backpack.



Expert Tents and Expert Light (LT) Tents: The tents in our Expert Line are particularly tear-resistant, extremely durable and very light. The Expert LT Tents furthermore have an exceptional amount of space relative to their weight. We recommend our Expert Tents if you camp a lot, even in extreme weather conditions, and/or if you need a particularly lightweight tent.



5. TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP

BEFORE TOUR

- > Check your tent for completeness before the tour. Nothing is more annoying than not realizing until you are on vacation that you did not take enough pegs or guy ropes, forgot the groundsheet or even the outer tent.
- Set up a new tent at least once at home so that you are familiar with the setup and details of the tent.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SPOT FOR YOUR TENT

- > Don't pitch the tent in a hollow there's a risk of flooding if it rains.
- If possible, pitch your tent in a shady spot to reduce UV-induced
 aging of the tent material.
- > Choose a tent spot where there is a "breeze" in total wind shadow your tent will not be properly ventilated. Then, in hot weather, heat accumulates in the tent, and it will also develop more condensation.
- > Don't erect your tent under a large, stand-alone tree to avoid the risk of a lightning strike.
- If you camp under trees, resin might contaminate the outer tent.
 This does not diminish the function of the tent, but it also cannot be removed without damaging the outer membrane of the tent.
- > Remove sharp-edged parts, stones, etc. before you erect your tent, and use a groundsheet to protect the tent floor.
- If possible, pitch your tent with its front facing the dominant wind direction. This ensures good ventilation, and in the extreme case you can utilise the tent's stability.
- > Secure your tent at all tension points, this increases the stability.

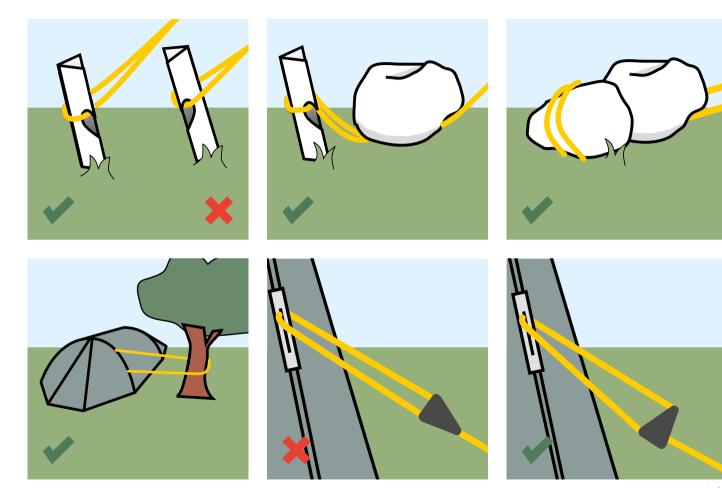
GUYING OPTIONS

- Make sure that the tent pegs are always inserted into the ground at an angle and with the pointed profile side facing away from the tent.
- If the ground is very firm, you can use stones or similar to reduce the tensile load on the peg.
- If you are unable to drive a peg into the ground, you can use two stones instead.
- You can also use the natural surroundings (e.g. trees, fences) to secure the tent.
- And you can use parts of your equipment (skis, ski poles, snowshoes in winter; hiking poles, boat, bicycle in summer) to secure the tent if the pegs do not hold.
- Make sure that the adjusters on the guy line are always under tension and properly anchored so that they do not slip.

PUTTING UP AND TAKING DOWN IN THE RAIN

- If you have to take down your tent in the rain during a trip, you can first unhook the dry inner tent and pack it separately. Then you take down the wet outer tent.
- > The next time you set up your tent, put up the outer tent first and then hang up the dry inner tent.

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6. CARE AND STORAGE

Before you store your tent after a tour, you should dry and clean it. -> Check the zippers and clean them from sand and dust using a

DRYING

- Dry your tent after each tour, because condensation occurs in all weather conditions.
- To dry the tent from condensation, it is usually sufficient to lay the tent out in an airy place for about 30 minutes or hang it over a clothesline. Separate the inner and outer tent to ensure that the fabrics do not lie on top of each other.
- If the humidity is high or after rain, make sure the fabric is dry before storing for a longer period of time.
- If you have to pack up your tent wet, set it up again to dry on the same day if possible. If this is not possible, at least take it out of the tent bag and spread it out in a dry place. However, it should be set up the following day at the latest.

CLEANING

- If necessary, clean the tent by hand (up to 30 degrees) with a mild soap solution and a soft sponge – neutral soap is good, for example.
- > Do not use wash-in impregnations or other chemicals.
- > Rinse the tent fabric carefully with clean water.
- > Do not wring out the wet tent.

- Check the zippers and clean them from sand and dust using a fine brush, e.g. a toothbrush.
- > Hang the wet tent up to dry.

IMPREGNATION

Use and ageing will roughen the surface of the tent fabric, which will make it increasingly difficult for water to drip off. It will also take longer to dry. To prevent this, use one of the waterproofing products available from your dealer.

SEALING THE SEAMS

Tents are sewn together from individual parts and are connected by seams. In the worst case, water can penetrate through the tiny holes poked by the sewing needle. That is why the seams are sealed. However, due to the production and material, not all seams and seam areas can be sealed one hundred percent. If you discover a leak at one of your tent's seams, we recommend that you purchase a seam sealer from your dealer that matches the tent material and apply it according to the instructions.

AFTER A TRIP IS BEFORE A TRIP

Check your tent, the pegs and the poles for any damage after every trip. It is best to have any necessary repairs carried out immediately after the vacation – this way you have a functional tent ready for spontaneous travel decisions.

TIP

Pack seam sealer along with repair sleeves, extra pegs and guy ropes in a small repair kit to take with you on your trip.

GOOD TO KNOW

The silicone-coated tents of Tatonka's Expert Series are sewn with a cotton-coated nylon thread. Under the influence of moisture, the coating of the thread swells up and thus closes the holes created by the sewing process. This reduces the likelihood of seam leakage.



7. REPAIR

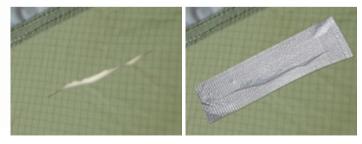
As with anything that has to perform in any way, things can go wrong with a tent. What can you do?

THE TENT IS LEAKING

- > Check if it is not just condensation. Ventilate your tent: Open the second entrance. Release the vents. Position your tent into the wind.
- > Seal leaking seams with seam sealer.
- > If none of this helps, contact your dealer after the tour.

THERE'S A TEAR IN THE TENT

During your trip you can close it with tape/plaster. However, contact your dealer after the tour. He will send the tent to Tatonka so that it can be professionally repaired. Never sew a tear yourself, as you will damage the material.





THE POLES BREAK

This will usually be a segment of the pole arch. You can repair it temporarily with a repair sleeve, which you slide over the broken section. However, contact your dealer after the tour, as he will be able to repair it properly or send us the arch to be repaired. **There are the following options:**

- Replacement of the broken pole segment with a standard segment: Due to the individual bending curve of the single segments per arch and tent type, the replacement segment is not pre-bent and may have to be shortened individually. However, the tent remains fully functional in the future.
- Replacement of the complete arch: You will again receive an optimally adjusted pole arch with the corresponding pre-bend curve. Pole arches can be ordered through your dealer, stating the name of the article and the arch.

8. ABC OF TENTS

APSE

The apse ist the space that is created at the end of the tent when the outer tent is erected. Many tents have apses at both ends. They are very useful storage areas (i.e. for equipment).

CARE

Only store your tent absolutely dry after a trip to avoid damage to the coating. Tents should only be washed by hand, never in the washing machine. Shady places and groundsheets protect the material on your trips.

CONDENSATION

Depending on the size of the inner tent, the number of sleeping persons, weather conditions and ground, more or less condensation occurs on the inside of the outer tent. This doesn't mean your tent is leaking! Nor will touching the outer tent make it leak.

You can often reduce condensation by simple means:

- Provide enough ventilation your tent often has a second entrance for this purpose, as well as vents on at least two sides.
- Put groundsheets down in the apse as well; they prevent ground moisture from rising.
 For almost all Tatonka tents, you can get specially tailored groundsheets from your dealer.
- > If you are camping in extreme conditions, you can place a rain jacket over the end of your sleeping bag to protect it from condensation.
- > Simply wipe the condensation off the inside of the tent with a soft cloth.













COOKING IN A TENT

As a general rule, you should never cook in a tent. Not only will it reduce the amount of oxygen in the tent and increase condensation, but it could also burn (Polyester) or melt (Nylon) the material of the tent. Exception: Cooking can be done in a large tent apse if the ventilation is very good at the same time. However, this should only be considered in bad weather and when no other shelter is available. A campfire should be lit at a sufficient distance from the tent to avoid damage to the tent from flying sparks.

ENTRANCES

The outer and inner tent entrances of Tatonka tents are wide and easy to operate with one hand. Inner tents have separately closable mosquito windows, and the complete open entrance can be stowed in the side pocket, or else rolled up and secured.

GUY LINES

Guy lines, attached to the tent's reinforced guy points, are used to brace the tent so it stands firm in wind and rain. Optimal wind stability and ventilation is achieved by using all guy lines.

Tatonka tents have a roll-up device for the guy ropes, which makes it easier to store the ropes when dismantling the tent and prevents the ropes from tangling. The lines of the Tatonka tents are UV-stable dyed. For visibility in the dark, the guy ropes of the Allround Series are marked with reflective sleeves, while the entire lines of the Expert Series are reflective.

MOSQUITO WINDOWS

The entrances to the Tatonka inner tents have mosquito windows that close seperately, and can be stowed in a pocket on the side. They serve as additional ventilation.

PEGS

There are different tent pegs for different kinds of grounds. In addition to standard pegs, which cover about 90% of all applications, there are also sand pegs, snow pegs and tent nails. Tatonka tents come with sufficient standard pegs. Depending on the assumed ground conditions (hard, sandy, stony), it may be advisable to equip yourself with special pegs. Tatonka offers an extensive range of special tent pegs.

POCKETS

Side pockets at head height (when lying) make ideal storage, for example for glasses. Many Tatonka models also have pockets at the foot end, which you can easily reach when upright. The Polar and Alaska tents also have a removable pocket in the apse, and the Alaska models also feature a roof pocket (under the tent canopy).

POLE ARCHES

Pole arches are used to position the tent. They are pre-shaped as appropriate to the tent model, so that it can be set up and secured safely. Tatonka uses high-quality YUNAN tent poles, as this manufacturer pays attention to sustainable production in addition to quality. YUNAN provides poles in two different aluminum alloys, which are used depending on the tent category. Both are extremely break-resistant, hollow on the inside, connected with a rubber band and can thus be easily inserted into each other.

POLE SHOES

Pole shoes are to be found at the end of the pole channels on all Tatonka tents. A tensioning device with an upward pull makes it easy to tighten the pole arches.













TENT AGING

All outdoor materials undergo an aging process, and lose tear strength over time. This is mainly due to UV radiation. Tents coated with a silicone elastomer are better protected against UV-related aging than tents coated with polyurethane. They last longer.

Tip: If possible, always pitch your tent in a shady spot – it will last a lot longer.

TENT GROUNDSHEETS

Groundsheets protect the tent floor from damage caused by stones, rough ground, roots or branches, and they also reduce condensation. Tatonka offers tent and apse groundsheets to fit different tent models (see 11 – "Accessories").

UV RADIATION

UV radiation is the ultraviolet radiation of sunlight. In the case of materials used outdoors, the high-energy UV component of the radiation triggers physical-chemical processes that can manifest themselves in deterioration of the mechanical properties, loss of gloss and discoloration. In the case of tent materials, especially the outer fabric, this means that they lose tensile strength over time. Tents with silicone coating are much more durable than those with PU coating. To make your tent last as long as possible, you should choose a shady location.

VENTS

Vents are covered openings in the outer membrane of the tent that allow the air to circulate. They can be guyed seperately, and with Tatonka are made to be waterproof. Thanks to a stiff fabric band, Tatonka vents can still be pitched easily even after long use. All Tatonka tents have a sufficient number of vents for optimal air circulation. On some tents in the Expert Series, the vents can be closed from the inside. These tents are also suitable for winter use. \bullet

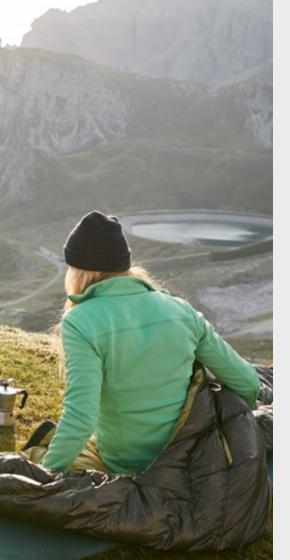
WATER COLUMN

The water column indicates how high the water pressure can be before the fabric starts to allow moisture through. According to the DIN standard, a figure of 1.500 mm is considered waterproof. Tent floors have to withstand much more due to point loads and abrasion. With silicone-coated outer tents, the water column is lower than with PU coatings, but this is more than compensated for by the higher and more lasting beading effect.

WATERPROOFNESS

Water can penetrate joints, seams and zippers, but it can also be diverted to the outside – essential when it comes to condensation.



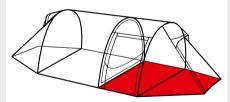


TENT AND APSE GROUNDSHEETS





ZELTUNTERLAGE 250 x 220 ZELTUNTERLAGE 230 x 160 ZELTUNTERLAGE 250 x 155 ZELTUNTERLAGE 250 x 185



APSIDENUNTERLAGE 2+3 APSIDENUNTERLAGE FAMILY

GOOD TO KNOW

Find the current tarp & tent accessories as well as the suitable tent and apse groundsheets from Tatonka here:

https://www.tatonka.com/en/ tent-tarp-accessories/

9. MATERIALS

Tatonka makes tents from the highest quality materials. As already explained, we offer two different tent lines. People who are looking for solid and compact tents choose a model from the **Allround Series**. The tents in the **Expert Series** are suitable for ambitious outdoor enthusiasts who camp often and even under extreme conditions. Here we process particularly light and very resilient materials.

ALLROUND TENTS BY TATONKA

Inner tent: The inner tent is made of **70 den Nylon Ripstop 190T WR**. The water-repellent fabric made of 70 denier nylon is particularly air-permeable. Stronger threads woven in at intervals lengthwise and crosswise give it high tear resistance (Ripstop).

Outer tent: The outer tent is made of **68 den Polyester 210T PU**. The lightweight polyester material is coated with polyurethane four times on the inside, which makes it waterproof. It has a water column of 8.000 mm. The material is UV-resistant and colorfast. Since the fabric does not absorb water, it also does not expand in wet weather (i.e. the tent always remains taut).

Floor: The tent floor is made of **70 den Nylon Taffeta 190T PU**. The finely woven, lightweight material is coated four times with polyurethane and has a water column of 10.000 mm.

Poles: The tent poles are made of **7001/T6 aluminum**, **9.5mm**. The anodized aluminum alloy of hardness grade T6 combines high breaking strength (brittleness) with optimum rigidity (dimensional stability). We use the aluminium poles in a variety of thicknesses **(Aluminium Multipole 13/15 mm)** for our large family tents in order to achieve the optimum tension within the pole arch.





EXPERT TENTS AND EXPERT LT TENTS BY TATONKA

Inner tent: The inner tent is made of **30 den Nylon Ripstop 245T WR**. This water-repellent and air-permeable material is particularly light and is used to save weight. Stronger threads woven in at intervals lengthwise and crosswise give it very high tear strength (Ripstop).

Outer tent: The outer tent is made of **30 den Nylon 6.6 Ripstop 250T Si** (Expert Tents) or **20 den Nylon 6 Ripstop Si** (Expert LT Tents). The extremely lightweight and very high-quality basic material has an enormous tear strength (Ripstop) due to stronger threads woven in lengthwise and crosswise. Five coatings of a silicone elastomer (3x outside, 2x inside) further increase the tear resistance and make the fabric waterproof (water column Expert Tents: 1.500 mm / Expert LT Tents: 3.000 mm). It is also very UV resistant and colorfast. Note: This material will expand when damp and may need to be re-stretched.

Floor: The tent floor is made of **70 den Nylon Taffeta 190T PU**. The material of 70 denier Nylon is particularly light. It is PU-coated four times and has a water column of 10.000 mm.

Poles: The **Ultra Light** Poles are very light due to the low wall thickness of the sleeves (0.65 mm in the middle, 0.5 mm at the ends) and the weight-reduced rubber cord. They also feature exceptionally good bendability. The organic design of the sleeve ends makes the plug-in system smooth-running and insensitive to jamming.



10. WORKMANSHIP

of its tents. Each tent is carefully inspected before it leaves our reinforced in zigzag stitch or with sealed seams. factory.

ENTRANCE ZIPPERS

The bottom end of the zipper is reinforced with a press stud, which prevents the zipper from being opened inadvertently.

FLOOR CONSTRUCTION

The corners of the tent floor are seamless and therefore 100% waterproof.

GUY POINTS

The guy line attachment points on Expert Tents are made of extra tear-resistant Hypalon.

POLE CHANNELS

The pole channels are especially flat, have double seams and are sealed. This reduces the area that is exposed to the wind, and facilitates the direct transfer of the frame tension to the outer tent.

SEAMS

All main seams of Tatonka tents are double fell seams. The outer seams of the tents in the Allround Series are thermally sealed with elastic seam tape, which makes them waterproof.

Tatonka places the highest value on careful workmanship in all Hard-working areas are backed with a double layer of fabric and

SIDE ENTRANCES

The side entrances are extremely reinforced and fitted with spacer webbing. This makes it very easy to brace the entrances to the correct width.

VENTS

The vents of the Tatonka tents are waterproof and, with the help of a stiff fabric strap, can be set up easily even after long periods of use.

7IPPER COVERS

The zippers of the outer tents are provided with an additional sewn-on cover for protection against dust and rain, the seams are sealed

11. ACCESSORIES

Tatonka offers a wide range of tent accessories.

ALUMINUM TENT PEGS

Standard tent pegs are available in packs of ten. Tatonka also offers various special tent pegs, available in packs of six.

GROUNDSHEETS

Groundsheets protect the tent floor and reduce condensation in the tent. Tatonka offers precisely tailored tent and apse groundsheets for every tent. There are also particularly lightweight groundsheets in various sizes that can be used for different tent models.

GUY LINES

Tent guy lines are available as a set of four cut to fit or in 25 meter lengths for individual cutting.

REPAIR SLEEVES

If a tent pole breaks, the defect can be repaired with a repair sleeve put over it. In diameter suitable for all Tatonka tent poles.

GOOD TO KNOW

At Tatonka you will of course also find many other useful products for your next adventure! Just have a look at <u>www.tatonka.com</u>!



OPEN FACTORY

FAIR & TRANSPARENT PRODUCTION

UNIQUE IN THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY: OPEN MANUFACTURING

Our products are manufactured in our **own SA8000-certified factories** in Vietnam according to European manufacturing standards and under socially responsible conditions. As the only manufacturer of outdoor products, we grant the interested public access to our production facility Mountech Co. Ltd. On site, everyone can see for themselves under which conditions **Tatonka products** are manufactured.

SOMETHING SPECIAL: OVER 30 YEARS OF OWN PRODUCTION

Since the founding of the Tatonka brand, all products are manufactured in our own manufacturing Mountech Co. Ltd. This was established in the late 1980s and is still managed exclusively by ourselves. Our goal from the beginning was to establish **manufacturing according to European standards** in order to produce high quality outdoor equipment. Of course, this means training the employees on site accordingly and creating the framework conditions for close cooperation – because the development department, administration and distribution warehouse for Tatonka products are located in Dasing, Bavaria.

SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL COMMITMENT: CERTIFIED AND TÜV APPROVED

Since the year 2011, Mountech Co. Ltd. is a **SA8000 certified production facility**. This internationally recognized social standard confirms our company's compliance with **labor and social standards** in accordance with ILO and UN conventions. Compliance with the specifications is checked at half-yearly intervals. Certification and monitoring is carried out by TÜV Rheinland.

https://openfactory.tatonka.com



