



# Tent Care, Cleaning and Storage

## Cleaning Maintenance:

For maximum life of Celina fabrics, Celina recommends regular cleaning. For most types of dirt (pollen & diesel fumes) it is recommended to use Celina's Tent Cleaner that is developed for tents and sidewalls. It can be used with a garden hose while the tent is erect or manually while the tent is spread on flat surface. Other neutral soaps and cleaners such as Ivory dish soap or Spic' N' Span and warm water are also accepted. Thorough rinsing and drying is required before storing.

## Stain Remover:

Celina has several different stain removers to choose from.

- The Celina Citrus Cleaner is a 100% biodegradable solvent that quickly removes adhesive residue from tents, inflatable bouncers, PVC, and plastics. This cleaner completely cleans and removes: Engine Grease, tar/asphalt, paints/inks, glue/adhesive, shoe Polish, tape residue, lipstick/crayon, kitchen grease, and chewing gum.
- A diluted bleach solution of at least 1:5 in water can be used when general maintenance cleaning will not remove the stain.
- Isopropyl alcohol or mineral spirits are also helpful in removing gummy residue or wet paint. Be sure to remove excess with a clean, dry cloth.

## Factors that will cause premature degradation and reduced life expectancy of your tents:

- Extended use of the tent without cleaning
- Accumulation of dirt on the vinyl surface will promote the growth of mold and mildew and premature wear
- Storage of vinyl that has not been dried thoroughly
- Even a slightly damp product can promote the growth of mildew when folded and stored. Mold and/or mildew may require harsh cleaners to remove, which may cause premature wear. The best solution is to take every precaution to keep mold and mildew from growing in the first place
- Harsh detergents and cleaners, which contain a solvent or bleach. The longer the exposure of PVC vinyl to these products, the more it will reduce the life of the PVC vinyl. If you or your customer decides to use a product containing a solvent or bleach, it is very important to remove it as quickly as possible, rinsing thoroughly and drying
- High abrasive cleaners, including wire brushes, power washers and/or commercial washing machines will result in premature wear and deterioration of tent fabrics
- During installation/dismantling improper handling such as on a rough surface can create pinholes and abrasions
- Wind whip will also damage the tent

## Vinyl Cleaner:

First impressions are important; therefore, make your tent's shine with our vinyl cleaning products. Many rental companies rely on referrals to increase their business so make sure your tent is clean and mildew free for your next event. Visit [GetTent.com](http://GetTent.com) for more information on our cleaning products.

## Vinyl Repair:

Avoid an embarrassing situation by being prepared for small accidents that can happen in the field during tent installations. Celina's repair products provide a quick and easy applicable solution to small tears and puncture holes when there is no time to spare. Our repair kits are equipped with multiple colors for versatility in the field. Visit [GetTent.com](http://GetTent.com) for more information on our vinyl repair products.

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Tent & sidewall cleaning with a mild soap and warm water usually does a good job of washing away dirt and grime, but this method does not always remove the variety of hard to remove stains that tents pick up during installation, tear-down, and while in storage. There are several other solutions for removing eyesores from tent & sidewall fabrics:

## Leaf, Hard-water, Rust and Mineral Stains:

CLR® (Calcium, Lime, Rust remover) is an acid but is safe for vinyl. It dissolves any mineral deposits that are on the surface. If clear sidewalls or cathedral window panes have hard water residue or a foggy look, try a weak dilution of the CLR® solution to remove the deposits.



## Sticky Residue, Duct Tape, Tar, Paint, Grease and Oil Stains:

These stains can be removed with pure organic citrus solvent, such as Celina Citrus Cleaner. Do not use mineral spirits, products such as Goof Off® or paint removers because these are made of petroleum. Since vinyl is a petroleum-based product, other petroleum products will permanently yellow and pucker the vinyl. If you are not sure, read the ingredients on the label. If it contains petroleum, do not use it on tent fabrics.



## Bird Dropping Stains:

Bird droppings can be removed with melamine "erasing foam" such as Mr. Clean® Magic Eraser®. It may be impractical for cleaning large stains, but heavy-duty commercial versions are available. This method also works for cleaning chairs.



## Confetti or Crepe Paper Stains:

Tent rental companies in sunny states have found that if you put your tent up in the sun for a few days, the ultraviolet light from the sun can bleach out the dye stains. Others have tried using the infrared heating lamps used at meat carving stations. Place the lamp the normal distance from the surface and let it sit for 20 minutes. Infrared light has also removed old set-in yellow mildew stains and leaf stains. This is a new remedy, so be careful not to let the vinyl overheat.

## Mildew Stains:

If a tent has mildew stains, a chlorine cleaner can be used. Fresh bleach-sodium hypochlorite from a grocery store works well, but weakens quickly the older it gets. More stable and stronger chlorine solutions include Celina's Mold Cleaner. These calcium hypochlorite solutions do a better job of "killing" the roots or spores of the mildew. Always apply any chlorine to a dry fabric. *Warning! Only use chlorine when the tent has mildew stains.* Chlorine does not whiten tent fabric, and extended use of bleach on vinyl fabric will remove the plasticizers and make the fabric stiff. Chlorine cleaners can also dry rot the polyester stitching on the seams after long-term exposure to ultraviolet sunlight.



## Pole Stains:

Black stains from aluminum and galvanized side poles are ugly. Some tent professionals have discovered that liquid silver polish removes the aluminum dust and does not damage the vinyl.

