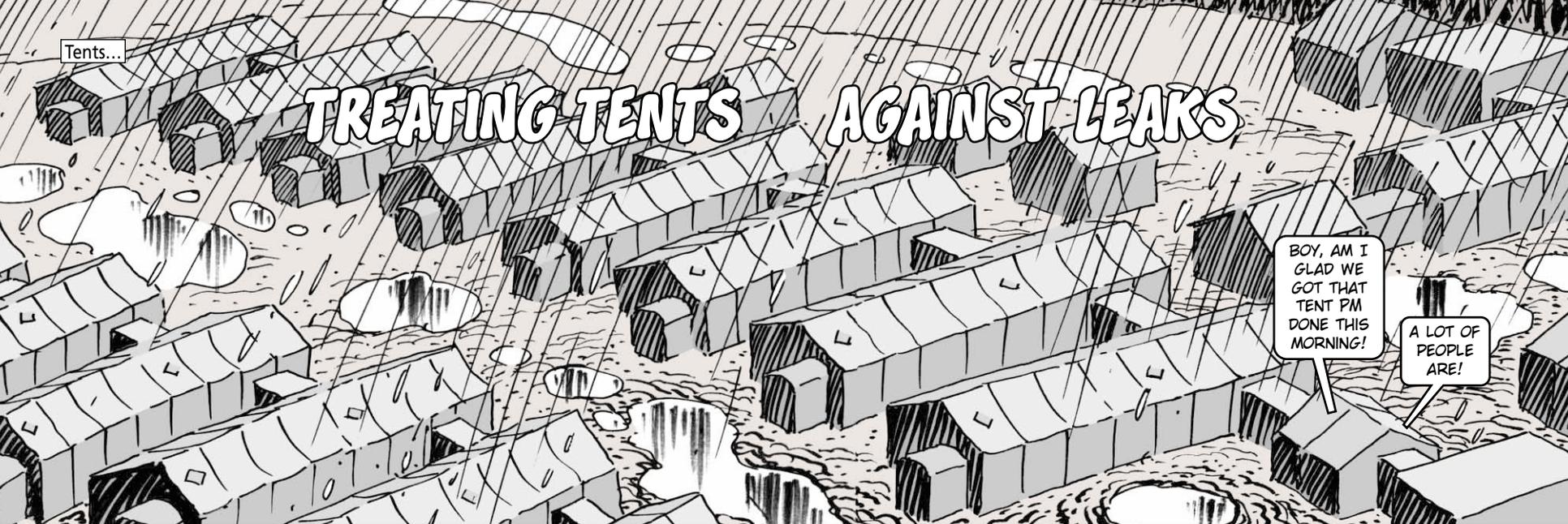


TREATING TENTS AGAINST LEAKS



No matter whether your tent is made of cotton duck (usually called canvas) or coated polyester (usually called vinyl), leaks are a problem.

Since you don't want to get wet inside your tent, pull a little PM before the rains come. But first, you must know what your tent is made of—canvas or polyester.

Cotton duck is olive drab and has a coarse, rough feel. It develops a musty smell over time.

Coated polyester is bright green or tan and feels slick. It smells like vinyl.

Treating Canvas

All tents start out repelling water, but after awhile, water repellency wears off. Field use wears it off pretty fast, so you need to renew water protection often.

Canvas will change color as the treatment wears off, becoming lighter and looking faded. This happens after about 12 months of field use.

Procedures for fixing leaky canvas are found in FM 10-16, *General Fabric Repair*.

First, make sure the canvas is dry. Then brush off any loose soil.

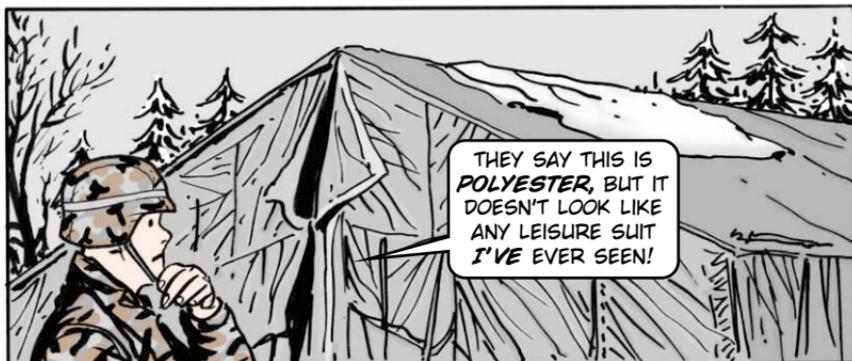


- To re-treat canvas, you'll need a preservative. As long as it's available, NSN 8030-00-281-2346, canvas preservative paste, will do the job. (It's a terminal item, though, and once it's gone, you'll have to find a substitute. Ask a local outdoor recreation supply store for suggestions.)
- Stir the paste thoroughly. Then dilute it with an equal amount of Stoddard solvent, NSN 6850-00-281-1985, adding the solvent a little at a time. Stir the mixture continuously until all the solvent is blended into the preservative paste. Stir it again before you start.

It takes about a gallon of mixture to coat a GP small, 1 ½ gallons for a GP medium and 2 gallons for a GP large.

- Apply the coating mixture with a brush or spray gun. Be sure you have lots of ventilation. If you use a spray gun, wear protective clothing and a respirator.
- Put the coating on thicker over patched areas and places that have previously been repaired.
- Let the canvas dry until it loses its tacky feel.





Polyester Tents

If your tent is made of coated polyester, it doesn't need re-treatment. Just the seams need to be re-sealed.

Use seam sealant, NSN 8030-01-350-4984. You'll also need a 1-in wide paint brush to apply the sealant, rags and some disposable containers with lids.

Seal the seams like so:

- Spread the clean, dry tent on a flat surface in a well-ventilated area, preferably outdoors.
 - Put the seam sealant into the small containers and keep the lids on the ones not in use. This keeps the sealant from thickening as you work.
 - Brush a light coat of sealant onto the stitched areas of the seams, flaps and webbing.
 - Use a 1-in brush turned sideways. The sealant should only go on the
- thread and holes left by the stitching needles. Try not to let it slop over beyond the width of the seam.
- The sealant isn't flame retardant, so apply it only to the tent seams. It increases the fabric gloss and makes it more likely to crack. If it cracks, your leaks are worse than ever.
- Let the tent dry about 30 minutes.
 - Apply a second light coat. Dry thoroughly. Two light coats work better than one thick one.

