

# Euro-Yurts LLC

Ger-pitching instructions.

Congratulations on your decision to buy a ger from EuroYurts.

We are happy and honoured that you chose us.

All the people involved in making it and getting this ger to you did their very best to supply you with the shelter of your dreams:

-The lumberjacks in the remote mountain-forests of Mongolia, who struggle to find the best trees, and fell them in accordance to internationally controlled forest-management ideas.

-The truck-drivers who haul the rough-cut planks to the city of Ulaan Baatar, 1200 km in five days, over non-existing roads and frozen rivers, sometimes at -40 degrees.

-The carpenters in the wood-workshop who extracted the best wall-slats and rafters from between the knots in the planks, who cut the generous curves of crown and doorframe, and the boys and girls who put the knots into the wall-lattices.

-The felt-masters in the factories of Erdenet, and Darkhan, whose accurate eye and generations of experience in felt-making yields the best and most consistent felts Mongolia has to offer.

-The seamstresses who sew the liners, canvas, and outer covers with its meandering 'hammer' patterns.

-The trial-pitchers and packers, who have had to learn that a 'Euro-Yurt' is not a cheap solution for a deprived population, but a positive choice for the graceful simplicity of living-self-reliable.

All these people work specifically for Euro-Yurts, no other ger-supplier goes as far in the control over the whole supply-train as we do.

But still: it is all hand-work, and natural materials. Which means, there may, or will be, irregularities, imperfections. These are nothing to worry about, your ger has 100% extra everywhere you look, because we expect it to live for 40 years. Let these impurities be a remembrance of all the work that went into it, by all the hands involved.



There are a few things about pitching a ger that Mongolian nomads never even think about, but for the non-nomadic European customer seems unnecessary, strange, or at least surprising. Yet, these things may hold wisdom that you might use to your advantage, when living in, or otherwise using a ger in Europe.

First-off, select a reasonably flat, preferably slightly raised area for your ger, in case of possible flooding.

A few centimeters may be enough, yet a meter may not, depending on your local ground- and weather conditions.

If you choose to pitch on a (wooden) floor or platform, make sure the ger cannot slide off sideways, and be sure to build a solid floor; nothing more irritating than a wobbling stove.

Also, do keep in mind that you want to be able to walk around your ger every now and then to check, change and adjust, so if you build a platform, make it bigger than the ger you intend to pitch on it, or design a special walk-around.

Do not pitch under trees, or in the vicinity of trees likely to fall on top of your ger in a storm. Trees release all kinds of particles over the year, pollens, seeds, leaves, and sometimes sticky juices, which are a serious attack on the life-expectancy of your ger.

Your ger was made in one of the sunniest countries of the world, she does not like being in the shadow.

The ger as it is made, folded and packed is meant to be pitched facing south, that is, the door to the south, which makes the light coming in the roof-windows to fall centre-back inside, and the door-window doing the front-half of the ger. However, if you really need to, you might pitch it facing somewhere else. In which case, you might take a slightly different approach to the diverse overlappings in the covers, especially the canvasses and the sun-cover, to prevent them from being blown open too often.

The ger as it comes is equipped with an urgh, that is the top-flap, which closes the non-windowed openings in the back of the crown. There are multiple reasons for this construction, with some openings with windows, and some closed by the flap. Please do not jeopardise your ger, by putting windows of whatever kind in those openings.



What's in the box, what is it for, and what is it called?

In random order, but roughly as they come out of the box:

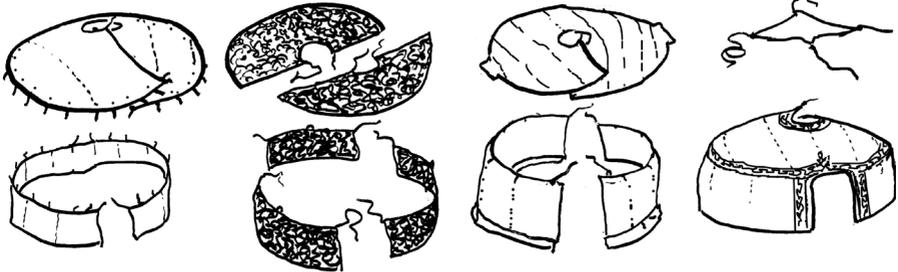
The metal/plastic stuff:

- a stove, with two or three sections of pipe, fire-utensils inside, and a fire-wood-box.
- 4 clear plastic windows, with protective foil still on



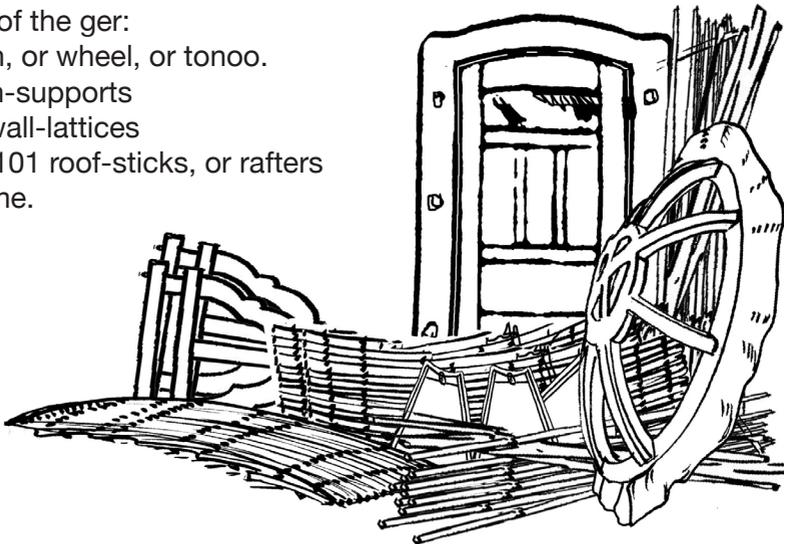
The soft stuff, depending on the size of ger:

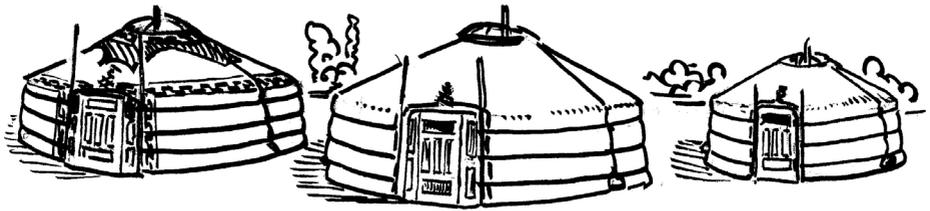
- 5, 6 or 7 pieces/rolls of felt, some are roofs, some are walls
- 3, 4 or 5 pieces of canvas, one is roof, the rest is walls
- 1 triangle of canvas with blue webbing, the urch
- 2 white bundles of cloth, one is the inner liner, cotton, the other the outer sun-cover synthetic.



The frame of the ger:

- one crown, or wheel, or tonoo.
- two crown-supports
- 4, 5 or 6 wall-lattices
- 69, 84 or 101 roof-sticks, or rafters
- 1 door-frame.





Putting up a ger is quite unlike any other tent you may have experience with, but if you follow the book, it should be NO problem. The basic idea is to pitch the complete frame first, and then arrange the four layers of covers on top of that.

The frame consists of wall-lattices, rafters, a crown or roof-wheel, two supports for that, and a door-frame.

First of all, place crown and it's two supports INSIDE of where the ger will be/has to come.

Then erect and connect wall-lattices and doorframe, to create roughly the circle that will later be the ger.

You don't need a string-on-a-peg to get the ger round, it will get round by itself, from the multitude of rafters, as they go in.

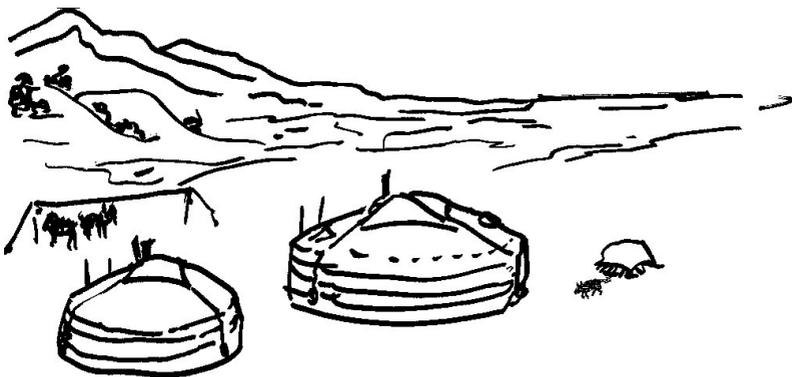
Then raise the crown, and connect it to the wall with all the rafters.

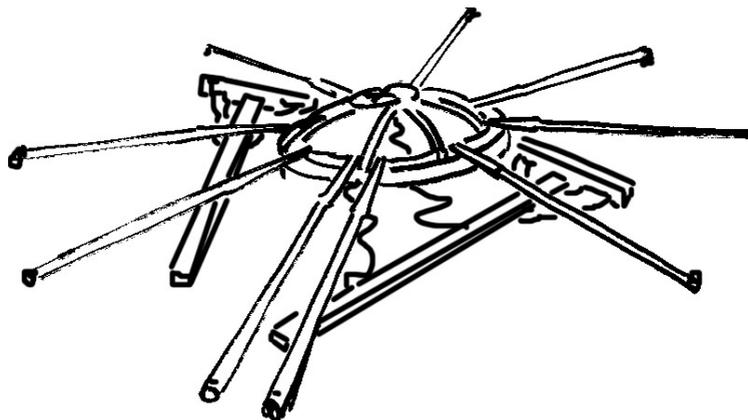
As more and more rafters get put in, the ger gets rounder and rounder.

Six or eight rafters are special, they are for on top of the doorframe.

They do not have the loops that all the other rafters have, and they have one or more saw-cuts, depicting their respective place on the doorframe.

After the frame is erect and complete, the covers go on in four layers.





To help beginners in the art of ger-pitching, here's what they could/ should do: Place crown and the supports inside where the ger must come, with the crown in the exact centre. Lay nine rafters on the crown, with their tips inward, protruding 2 or 3 centimeters INSIDE of the outer rim. I say nine, because it makes sense to do it in a star-of-eight, with double rafters for where the door will be.

If you move around carefully, and not disturb it, this star will show quite accurately the circumference of the ger.

Put up the wall-lattices, belly-outward, heads up.

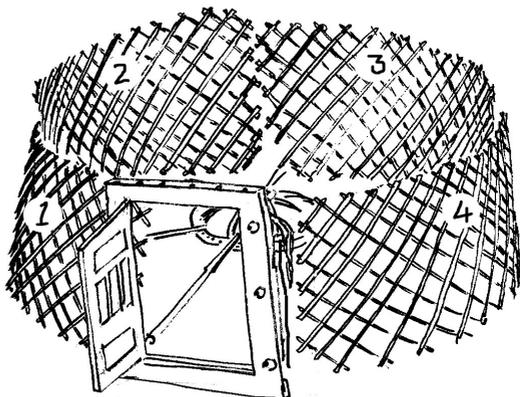
The heads are the lattice-ends which are nicely rounded.

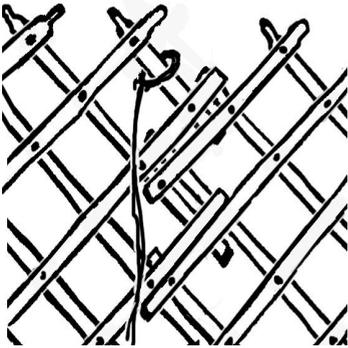
The lattices are numbered near their tops, on the outside, for your convenience. Number (1) is next-to-the-door, clockwise. The sections which abutt to the door-frame have their ends cut off, for a precise fit.

Put the doorframe in it's place, and support it by opening the door halfway. The next step is to zip the walls together.

-Notice the bend in the walls: it has to do with a round tent having straight walls, it takes a lot of effort to get them that way.

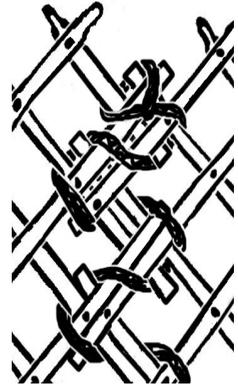
To keep this bend, never store them being pressed flat, the will loose this necessary curve.





Lacing the walls is done from the outside.

Extend the two wall-sections to be connected to the roughly the same extent, and more important, the same height. Slide the two sections carefully into each other, until there is a parallel set of slats all



the way down. If your wall-sections do not seem to fit, it is usually because they are not extended to the same height. Above all this 'same height' is important when zipping together two wall-sections. Just lifting the side which seems to low is no solution, that is cheating; that lower wall will have to be extended less, thereby coming up. When you have the height right, start nudging the walls together, from the bottom upward.

Then, from the top down, lace it. Horse-hair lattice-laces are tied onto the left-hand wall-section, to prevent them getting lost.

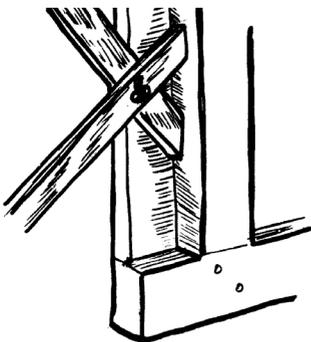
Check the drawing above for the most efficient and strongest way to lace the seam in the lattices. Do this from outside; the inside is full of rafters and two crown-supports, it is very unpractical to try lacing from inside.

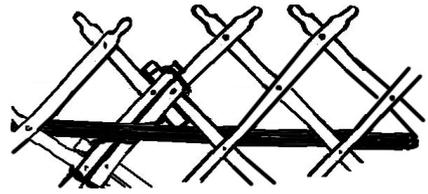
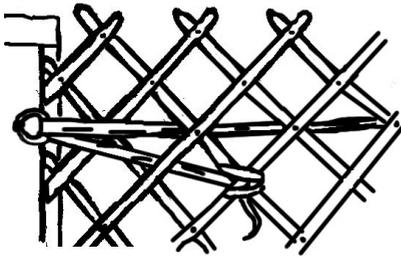
When reaching the bottom, tie off with no special knot. Just make sure the end doesn't touch the ground.

As for connecting the lattices to the doorframe, that is another story. The cut-off ends just rest in the groove in the door-stile, or at least, they should.

If they don't want to stay there, maybe your wall-height is a little, or a lot off..?

More stability will come when you tie the INNER BUSS.





INSIDE VIEWS!!!

The Inner Buss, or webbing, is white or light-grey.

It is attached lightly to one of the steel rings on the inside of the door-frame. It goes outside around the wall-lattices, two crossings below the top, from ring to ring. Where it starts and finishes, it goes inside the lattice through the last complete opening, and also at each lattice-joint it passes once inside, through the second opening from the top. This buss will determine the final circumference of the ger, at least, when on a reasonably flat ground.

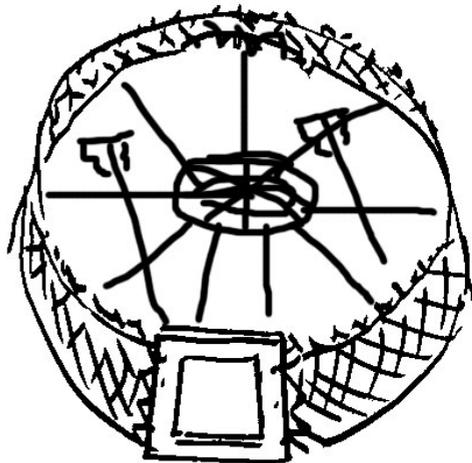
The trial-pitch circumference has been marked with a felt-tip-marker, one near each end, which should come just where the buss goes through the ring at the doorframe.

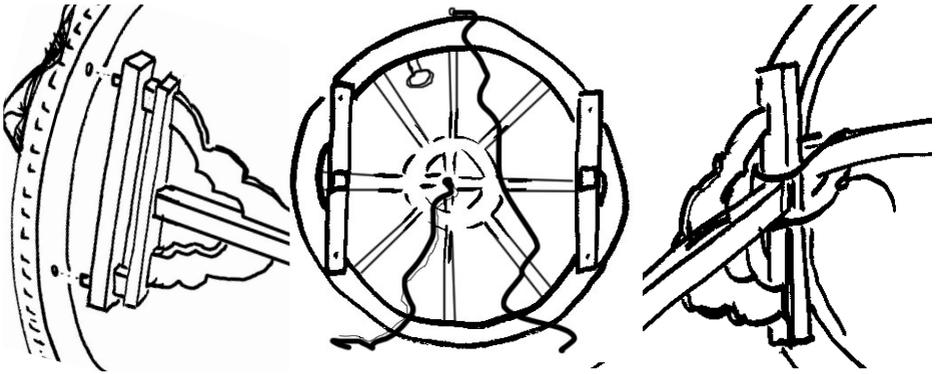
The ends go back outside just the way they came in, and get tied somewhere onto a wall-crossing, and so helping to pull the lattice against the doorframe.

If the whole thing seems quite wobbly, and unstable, that's OK, strength will come later, with all rafters in, and the covers on.

If you are pitching on a very smooth, slippery floor, you will need to put a second buss very low around the ger. For this, temporarily use the lower one of the blue outer busses for this purpose, then later, when all covers are on, it can be brought round the outside of these covers.

You may want to pop the door out of it's hinges now, and lay it aside.





Now step inside, move all the rafters out of the way, (stand them up against the walls, tips down is best) and proceed to tie the crown to it's supports.

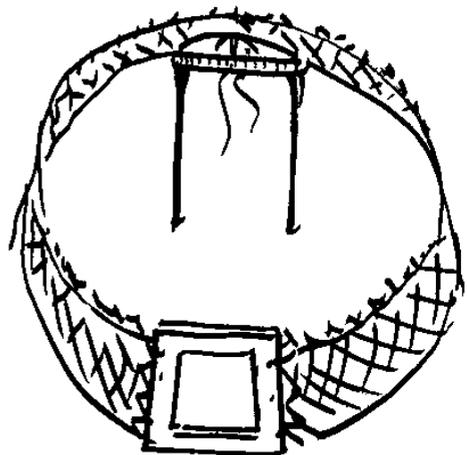
Stand the crown in it's edge, bulge against the wall, centre-back, maybe on a pillow or plank. Turn the crown, so that it's front (the ring with the yak-hair rope) is facing upward. The crown has four holes, to recieve the pegs in the heads of the supports. Use the narrow ribbons to tie in a 'tennisball-pattern' around the upper cross-piece, and the crown-spoke directly above it. Use a slipknot and make sure the knot is not in the way of the windows, which will come in the opening of the crown last of all. When done, lay the wheel as close to the wall as possible\*), with both supports nicely pointing in the direction of the door.

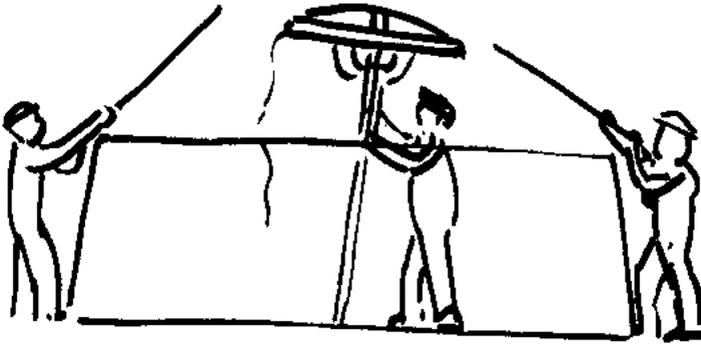


*\*) in a 4-wall actually touching, in a 5-wall ger about 40 cms from the wall, in a 6-wall about 70 cms distance.*

Now, with two people, flip the crown up and forward, as a third person stops the rafters from sliding with his foot/feet. It will stand more or less by itself. Correct for alignment with the door if very much off. One person can now hold it vertical, the rest of the crew should go outside.

Standing UNDER the crown is now the safest place.

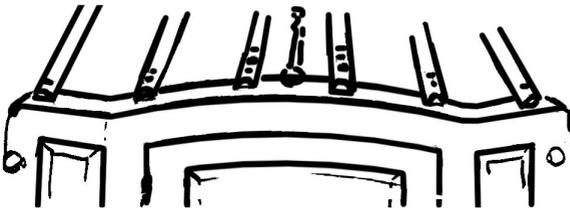




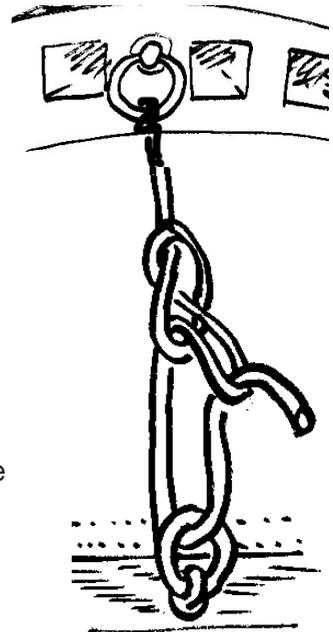
The first rafters;

Spread about 16 rafters around the frame, lean them against the wall. As the person in the middle struggles to hold the wheel straight, start putting in rafters. A clever idea is to start with those rafters that go on the doorframe, as they are special anyway; they do not have the little loop on the bottom-end, instead, they have a couple of grooves cut in them, one, two, three or four grooves.

The two rafters with one groove are for the outermost notches on the doorframe, the highest number are the centre ones. At the crown, these 'number-1's' go in the third or fourth hole (4/5 or 6-wall-gers) from the ring with the horse-hair-rope, which is really the centre-front.



For the moment, just the numbers 1 will do fine, they will stabilise door and crown, especially if you tighten-and-tie the yak-hair-rope from the crown-front to the doorframe-top, with a 'truckers-knot': Feed the rope through the ring on the top of the door-frame, and back to the loop halfway-up, then pull, and tie with a slipknot.





Now go around THE OUTSIDE of the ger, sticking rafters in kinda-evenly spaced, resembling the pattern you had on the ground before, the eight-spoke cross.

One on the East, North and West, and one in between each of these.

If you see a mark 'Ø' on the wall-lattice, this head corresponds to hole (more or less) under a crown-spoke, making it a little easier to find which head on the wall belongs to which hole in the crown. Some spokes are exactly above two holes, so they have two marks. When this basic star of 8 is in place, the wheel-holder in the centre can come out and join the others in sticking the rafters in.

This is how you put the rafters in the best and easiest way:

1) First stick tip in the crown, 2) lay the butt on head-of-lattice, 3) flip bridle over LEFT-HAND thumb. 1-2-3, Stick to that sequence.

Use your right-hand thumb to push the rafter in, in relation to the lattice. Do not pull the whole lattice outward, the rafters next to you will fall out. When too loose, give the bridle one or more turns.

When very tight, pull a whole section of wall outward.

When really impossible, stick foot under wall, pull all the wall slightly outward.

If STILL impossible, check if the inner-buss is really on it's two marks.

If EVEN SO impossible, you have too little, then somewhere else in the circle MUST have too much! If your rafter seems way too short, then somewhere else they must seem way too long.

In this stage of pitching, you might take a close look at the walls, are they more or less the same height all the way round, are the bottom-ends roughly in a circle, is the wall all-over more or less vertical?

Do they still abutt to the door? Again, don't worry if the door-wall connection seems totally wobbly at this point.

At this stage also, you might get the impression that the crown is/ has turned, the door-sticks are no longer pointing at the door, or the marks on the wall no way correspond with holes-under-spokes in the crown.

Stick to the marks, and **stay cool!**



Just look at the thing, correct the most obvious mistakes, and keep sticking rafters in.

The more rafters, the rounder it gets. Look for, and use the marks. If one or more of the very first rafters is way off the mark, either up or below, it will twist the wheel, and stop it from turning back when more and more rafters are coming in their right places.

If you can get them in, but they are so loose that they keep falling out, then tighten the buss a little bit beyond it's mark. Keep going with those rafters until you have about 1 in every 3 in, then take a real break.

Now is the time to correct the wall-height to it's final perfection: Move small sections **left** or **right**, thereby lowering parts, and raising others. This way, going around and around, slowly it will get even and straight, and lo-and-behold, all rafters slowly start to point towards the centre!

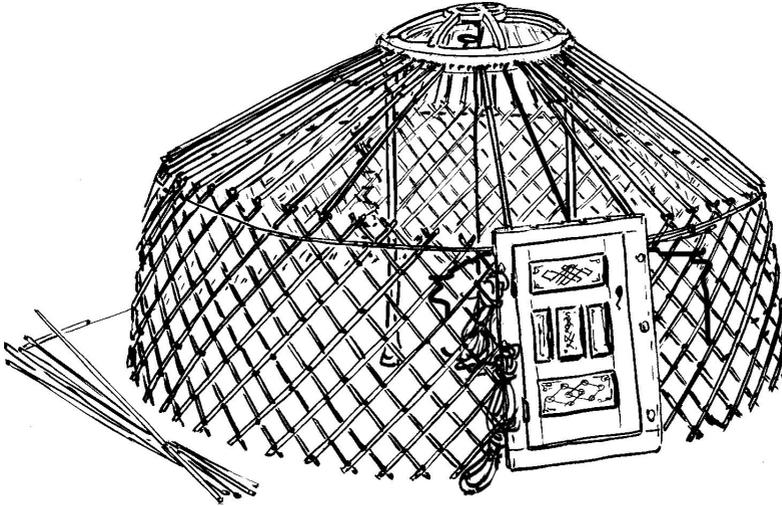
OK, if they still don't, this really means the crown has turned, but this is easily corrected by moving the crown-supports on the opposite direction.

If by this it seems to go up and floating, loosen the buss little by little until the supports hit the ground again.

And remember, **DON'T PANIC!**

If you are content and believe you cannot get the wall-lattices more even, then fill in the remaining rafters. Just dumbly keep going. Of course you will find a counting-mistake, where there is no hole, but there is a head, or vice-versa.

When you are all done, you should have three to five rafters left over, and it should look somewhat like this, but maybe without the door.

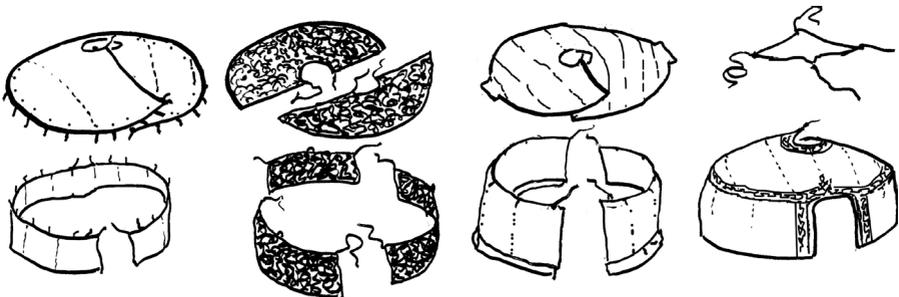


Check one more time if the crown-supports are vertical, and that the crown points towards the door, and adjust these if necessary. Check also if the wall-lattices are all leaning inward at the same slight inclination. The walls are made to do this, about 10 cms over their height. If not, gently lift the wall at that place, and the feet will jump into place. You might tighten the inner buss to the point that the crown-supports just start to hover. Fix with a secure knot!

Next step is the covers, four layers, walls and ceilings.

Here's all the layers in one view, maybe it helps in understanding:

**inner liner**, roof and wall, **felt** roofs and walls, **canvas** roof and walls, **sun-cover**, and top-flap, or **urgh**.

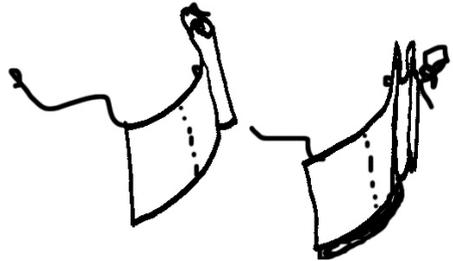
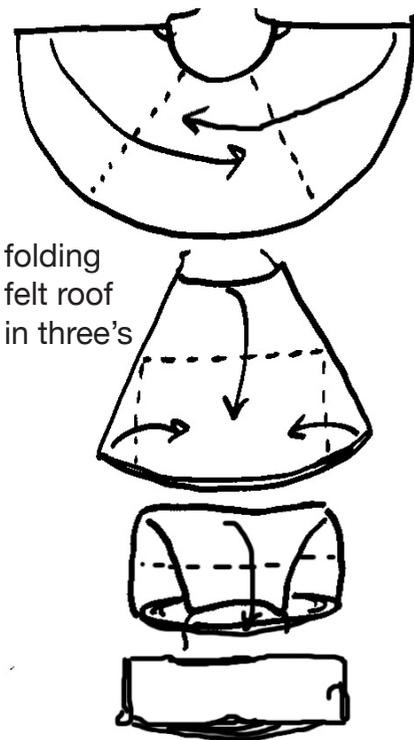


All covers should be folded according to how they will be unfolded most easily on the frame.

Liner, canvas and sun-cover are (usually) sent folded ready-to-pitch. Sun-cover and inner liner are packed in a scrap of their own material, cotton for the inners, and polyester for the sun-cover.

Some pieces of felt will have to be re-folded, depending on how and by whom the ger was fitted inside the box.

Here's how the felt should be folded before attempting to get it on the frame:



Felt walls are best rolled, and at that, towards the door, as they will be unrolled FROM the door during pitching. There are 3, 4, or 5 felt-walls to roll, they are all interchangeable. Inner-liner and canvas walls are/ should be zig-zagged.

The canvas roof is folded in a wide flat tapered rolling-shape, to end up above the door.

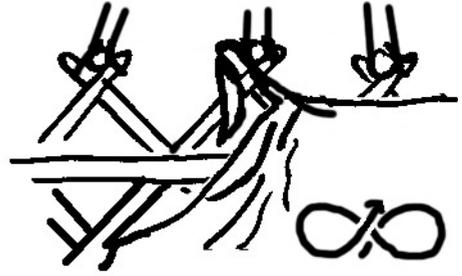
The sun-cover is folded from the back around the sides to the front, so it ends up folded just on top of the door.

During the unfolding all the separate layers, it is very practical to have someone inside the ger, on a scaffold or stack of furniture, head and some arms sticking out, to help from above.

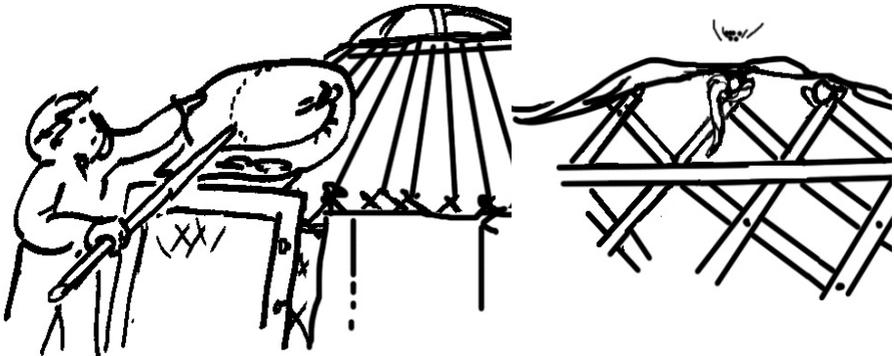
Even more practical is for this person to climb out through a window-opening, and sit and move around on top of the crown, but there is a serious taboo against this in Mongolia.

Up to you.

The liner-wall is simply unfolded from either side of the door, attaching ribbons as you encounter them, to the lattice-heads, with a simple butterfly-wrap. Make sure you have about 10 cm. extra width at the starting-point. Nearest the other end you will find one or two extra ribbons, to tie away the surplus you will have.



Put the ceiling on the rafters above the door, and check which way it will unroll. The seams are to come on the outside, the ribbons are on the in/underside. Gently push and unroll it with the aid of one of the spare rafters, all the way to the crown, and to the helping hands there. Find the middle-seam, keep that centralised over the door, and gently unroll it sideways, one way at a time. You will find ribbons every meter or so, tie these with a couple of butterfly-movements around a convenient wall-head. This will stop the ceiling from blowing away during pitching, and maybe, during take-down. The ceiling should hang 10-15 cms over the edge of the roof. When fully unrolled, you will have about 6-8 rafters overlap in the back, left-over-right or reverse, to your liking. At the top-corners you will find two loops, and two ribbons. They are meant to be tied in the same way as if you would grab your opposite elbows with your hands. Flip the PVC collar around the crown up over the ceiling.



On overlaps and extra's: None of the covers is actually sewn to fit, all of them work with overlaps. This way they will always fit, even if the frame is slightly different the next time you pitch. Sewing them to fit, they would actually never fit...

Of the felts, the roof goes on first. Roof-felts are heavy things, so respectfully heavy that in Mongolia they have a special word for one of them, (which is half-a-roof) they call it a 'deever'.

Deever must be heavy, they help in keeping the ger down in a storm. If you do not fold deever properly, they are a real fight to get them on, but they do not need to be:

Fold as shown before, first in three's, then fold or roll the top down. Then pick this cigar up as follows, with two men: stand on the side which is to become the bottom, the rounded three-thickness edges visible. Both stick your right arm under it, extend your left arm over it, and at countdown=0 lift the deever upon your shoulders. If done right, you are both facing the same direction, with a fat cigar on your right shoulders. Now walk to the ger, and stop in front of the door, with both your right hips against the frame. Then countdown again, and at 0 roll the deever onto the rafters, from your shoulders.

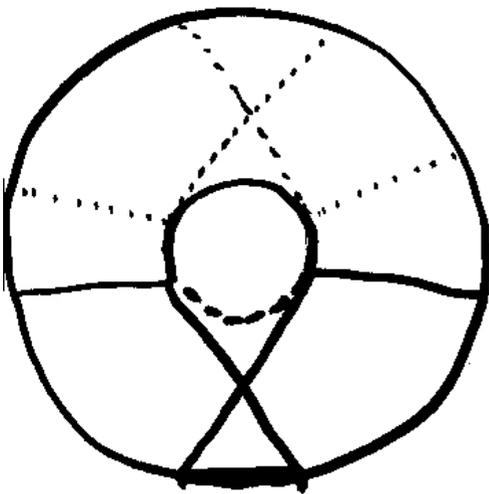
(Counting down is important, to save each others spinal disks.)

With the aide of a spare rafter, unroll it towards the crown, and then open it sideways.

Make sure it is centered on the door, and fits around the crown.

Run the two ribbons over to the back, and tie them about six rafters across from each other, down at the bottom of the walls.

The other deever goes the same way, but now from the backside of the ger. The two ribbons cross above the door, they lie in the first lattice-notch, and tie somewhere onto the wall-frame at the bottom. Finally, flip the PVC collar on the crown over the felt.



The wall-felts are unrolled, starting at the door in both directions.

This way you have full control over the joint of felt against the door-stile. Make sure there is no gap there, you will be cold.

This work is best done with three: one holds the gap-edge, one unrolls, and the third runs around and ties the ribbons as needed.

When fully unrolled, do some serious stretching on the wall-felts, it makes the ger a lot stronger. (the felts will have shrunk being rolled or folded for a while).

When unrolling felt walls, make sure the deever does not curl up under it, unseen, which will create a bulge in the roof later.

When not sure where to tie, think like this: as long as possible, and onto anything, and if at all feasible, onto the middle of another felt. Wall-felts have multiple loops at their top-edge to tie stuff to.

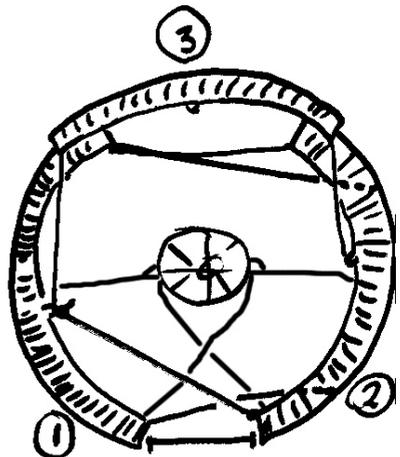
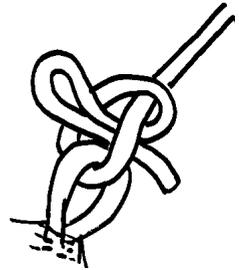
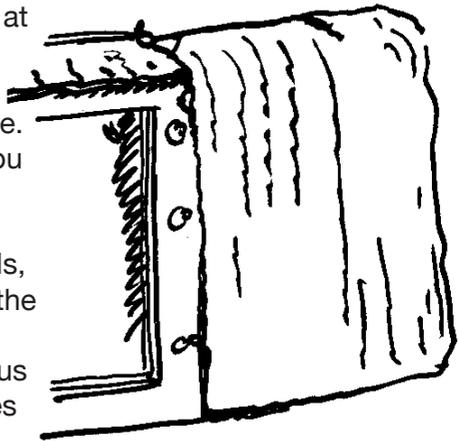
Felt walls can be hung higher or lower depending on your wishes: If you do a temporary pitch on high, wet grass, well, hang 'm high.

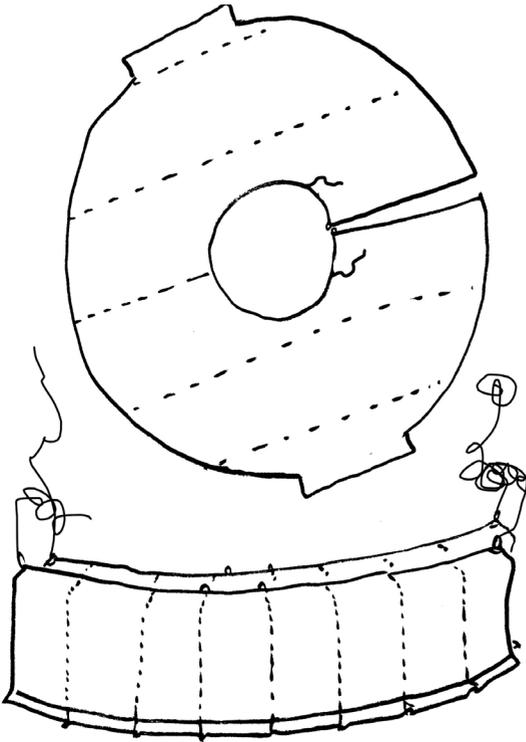
Or, if you pitch for a full winter, on a well-drained platform, then of course the walls will touch, maybe even rest on the floor.

Use slip-knots everywhere, when you take down the ger in the future you may not have time to fumble with stupid knots.

Depending on your ger-size you may have three, four, or five felt-walls to hang.

The result is a growing web of ribbons on the roof, each supporting it's own felt, and the one it is tied to.





The canvas-layer is hung very much like the felt-layer, except that the roof is in one piece. The walls may be two or three, with ribbons and plenty loops.

Canvas has an inside and an outside, to ensure water run-off at the seams. All the writing and marking are/should be on what is to become the inside. Canvas walls go on first, starting away from the door. Canvas-walls are interchangeable.

The first loop on the corner is a little off-corner, to make a tuck-in possible around the edge of the wall felts near the door. Ties tie anywhere practical.

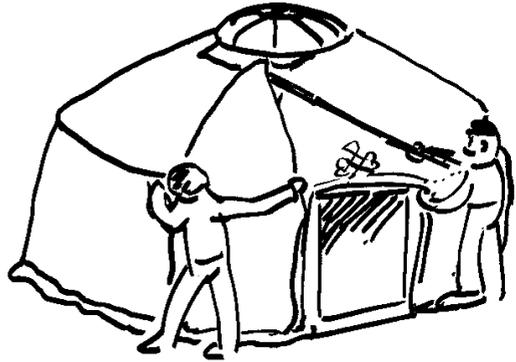
How high you hang the walls depends on your plans, like with the felts. If you expect a lot of rain, you should hang them very low, the PVC mud-cloth guiding the water as far away from the ger as possible. If you expect summer-heat, hang them very high to make venting easier.

The canvas-roof has two extra strips, to tuck in over the door. It is folded onto one of these, (usually) the one which will result in the overlap being on the East side of the ger (that is, when the door is facing South). If for some reason your door is far off the South, you may want to use the other door-strip.

In no case should the overlap in canvas and sun-cover be on the same place; if the latter blows open, the wind will get a grip on the edge of the canvas, and the resulting mess under the sun-cover is really difficult to sort out!

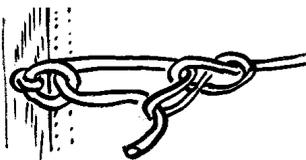
When nicely in place, with no horizontal ridges which may trap water, tie the two ribbons same like with the ceiling, and flip the PVC collar on the crown over the canvas.

The sun cover is the fancy dress of the ger, but it also serves to keep those bad UV-rays off the precious canvas. And it serves as well as a wrapping, that keeps all other layers from flying away in a breeze. It is the only part of the covers that has walls and roof sewn to each other. It is cut to hang about 10 cms off the ground to avoid soaking



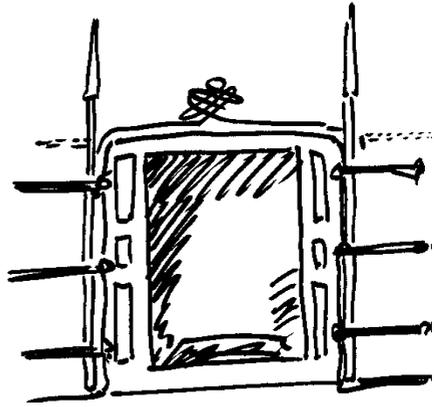
up moisture. It comes folded on top of the door, with it's top folded down towards the bottom-edge of the walls. It may look a little messy when first unpacked, but somewhere there are two strings sticking out of that bundle, that's the top, the neck. Lift it on the roof above the door, and let the part that will become the walls fall down. Push or throw the neck up, towards the person on/in the crown, and slowly unfold one side, normally the east side first, but if you expect eastern winds, or your door is not to the south, maybe the other side.

As you go, look behind you, to make sure that the edge-seam, the one with the decor, follows the edge of the frame, a little on the roof-side of it. When both sides are roughly unrolled, quickly tie the upper of the three blue-outer-buss around the ger, from door to door. **ONLY** the upper one! Let the person in/on the top do her/his thing with, again, two ribbons and two loops. **DO NOT** pull the PVC collar up, in stead, make sure the cover covers it! (and stops it from blowing up). Now go around again, and check that edge-seam, that it sits nicely on the eaves. Pull with all your might, if neccessary. Go around again if it doesn't seem right. The tighter your cover now, the less problems in a storm. When you think it can not be bettered anymore, tie the other two outer-buss. Use the truckers-knot to jerk them really tight, (but not so much on the centre-buss, which will only make the lattices buckle).



Trucker-knot:  
Through the ring, back  
through the loop, now  
jerk that loose end.

Tuck the canvas door-strip in, fumble with canvas and covers along the vertical edges until it all looks neat, then slide two of the spare rafters behind the three busses, to close the vertical draft-slit alongside the doorpost. Leave them a few inches off the ground, so they will not create a small puddle there, spoiling the spare rafters before the even get used for what they are really for.

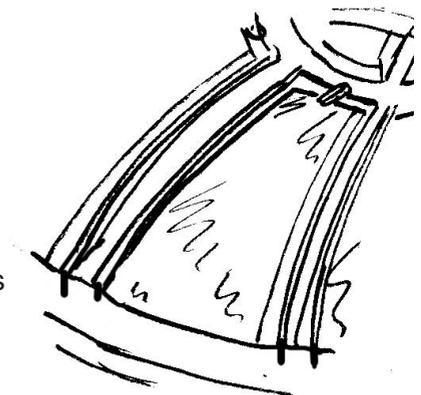


Hang the door back in to it's hinges. You may notice now the absence of door-knob, inside and out, or lock. We make gers in series, and do not know what kind of security/safety you want. You may want built-in locks, or none at all, or Mongol-style padlocks. You may want the doorknob to be at children's height, or precisely above that. We don't know, and we do not want to scar the door with the wrong system. We only put the latch on the inside, which is enough to secure your privacy when you are home. We figure, if you managed to open the box, you will also manage to cut a small piece of the packing-webbing, and screw it to the door, inside and outside, to make a make-shift handle.

If you need to lock the ger from the outside, you can always reach the inside-latch from outside, by sliding your hand in between the covers above the door.

The windows for the crown are numbered, so they fit into their respective openings. In a 4-wall ger the windows sometimes do not fit through their openings, they have to be passed up from outside. Push them up with a spare rafter you still have.

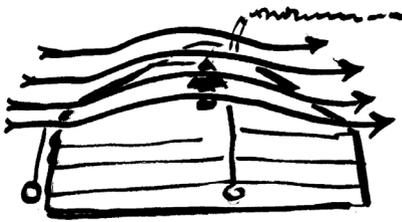
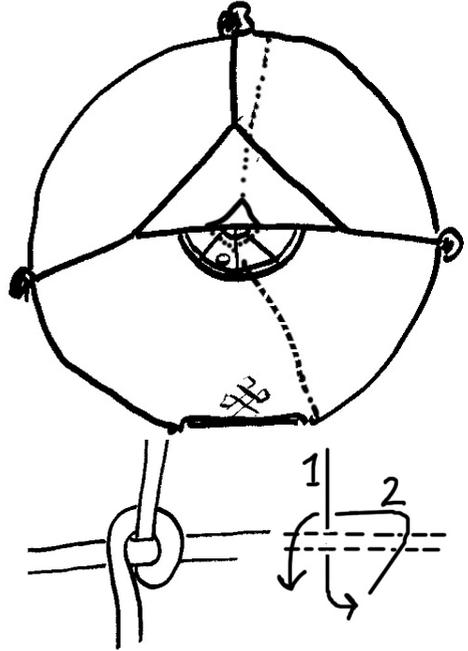
The window east of the one with the stove-pipe will be the one you open most often, to ventilate. Use the stove's poker if you cannot reach so high.



The urgh, the canvas triangle-thing with blue edges, goes on top of the crown, closing the openings that do not have windows. From above it should look somewhat like this.

The little triangle can be closed or opened to ventilate, by walking a half-circle around the ger, and a light tug on that blue rope.

The three ropes that hold the urgh pass under the buss around the ger (1), then behind itself's (2), three times, and then get weighted with a stone. The stones will keep the urgh down, and when the urgh stays, the ger stays. The stones are NOT part of the package.

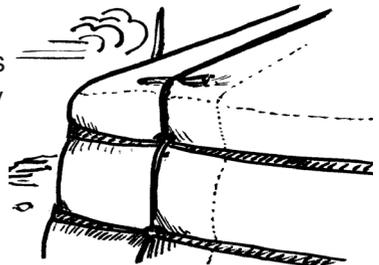


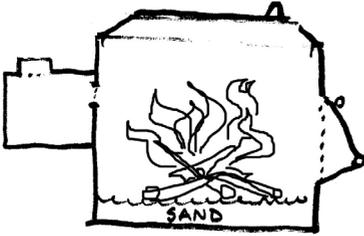
Do not put windows in all opening, this is very dangerous! Storms are not so much a problem, gusts are; In a real gust, the urgh will float up, opening those holes, to compensate for the low-pressure that the roof-curve itself creates. With windows in all openings, the air inside the ger has

no possibility to quickly fill that low-pressure, so the whole ger will go up. Furthermore, the urgh is like the hat of the ger, where it's spirit resides, no ger in the world is without one.

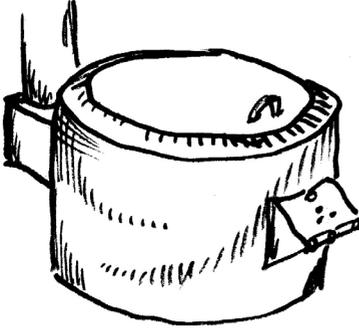
There lies also the taboo on sitting on top of the ger, the crown is the holy head of the ger, cannot sit your behind on it...

You may want to put small sticks under the urgh-ropes where they dent the eaves of the ger. Shift these sticks every month or so, to avoid build-up of moist and airborne debris.





Place the stove in front of the middle, if you wish on three bricks or natural stones, and feed the stove-pipe through ring and opening in the window. Don't worry if it touches the polycarbonate window, it is fire-proof, and will melt-to-size.



Before the first firing, make sure there is a two-fingers layer of sand, pebbles or stones in the bottom, and you might rub the outside with stove-polish (graphite) to prevent rust.

These nomadic stoves are quite suitable for Gers: they heat up super-fast, and give mainly radiation-heat, but don't keep it, which is good for the ger; sometimes frozen, sometimes heated to suffocation, the perfect way to get rid of all kind of vermin.

You may want to look for something more suitable for your needs, but beware: the idea that you could keep a constant temperature in a ger, similar to a house, is a dream; with only one door between inside and out, single glass in the roof, and 'only' one inch of wool.

In order to keep the ger enjoyable as long as possible, she should be constantly heated when wet; the ger is made of 95% natural materials, which will go to compost fairly quickly if you don't keep the moist out.

Which is quite easy, just keep the inside temps a few degrees above those outside. Moisture will find it's way out through the canvas, around the stovepipe, or through the small crown-opening.

Feel free to experiment with other heat-sources, but remember, the stove is the hearth and the heart of the house, it sits in the centre, or slightly off, but never on the side.

If by accident your ger has become too warm, or on hot summer days, you can simply lift the covers on one to four sides (between the stones) and tuck them under the first buss. This way you will have a complete ring of fresh air coming in, over the floor. See the cover of this booklet for picture.

The last and maybe most important detail in the ger is the rough half-red/half-black-and-white rope attached in the centre of the crown. It is called the 'Chagtag', and it is your means-of-last-resort: in real bad storms with gusts, your ger might start to 'hop', the urgh floats, and then the crown and supports jump up and down.

Quite scary and annoying.

To stop this, you tie the chagtag to a really impressive stone, in the middle of the ger, just behind the stove.

Find and put this stone inside the ger before you need it!

How 'impressive' is hard to answer in kilograms, or pounds, or stones; how 'real bad' is that storm/those gusts? One thing we do know is: when you think the danger is over, untie it; leaving it tied is just like asking for another storm. And then tuck it away under an odd number of rafters, in an odd number of zigzags: it will fall in the face of a sleeping patron when really needed.

When your first real storm hits, out there, when you don't expect it, you have to trust thousands of years of experience, hopefully you will remember these things.

Some words may be said on taking down, and storing your ger:

All gers must be de-and re-pitched regularly, we recommend twice a year. At least take all the covers off, check for small problems developing, and fix those before they get big.

Once in a year, wash the frame with good warm soapy water.

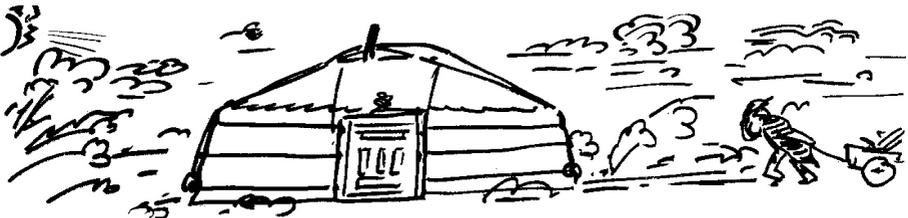
Inner and outer liners may be washed in a big laundromat.

Pack, fold and store your ger absolutely dry, and if for a longer period, maybe you can seal the covers airtight in plastic, against attacks of vermin (mice, moths, funghi).

When folding layers, fold them ready for re-pitching, you may be in a rush, with no time to re-fold.

When storing wall-sections, respect the curve, do not press them flat.

You may want to re-do the linseed-oil, especially on the outside, yearly (boiled linseed-oil, 5% turpentine).





We/all of us from Euro-Yurts wish you happy ger-living:  
nice spring-mornings and autumn-evenings,  
warm but breezy summers and still wintery snows.

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