



PLATFORM CAMPER

Keep with vehicle at all times.

*Contains important operating, safety,
& maintenance instructions.*

Campers Manual

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V 0.01

*DRIVE FAST. CAMP WELL.
BELGRADE, MONTANA*

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Introduction

We designed the Platform Camper to be radically simple and incredibly strong. We also designed this camper to be modular, user configurable, and to support some really epic adventures. It's our hope that this guide can help you get the most out of the camper, and address any questions you may have while you are in the field. Here's everything you may ever want, or need to know, all in one place.



fig.1

Vertical Clearance

Closed, the tent portion of the Platform Camper—the portion that sits above the height of the cab—is six inches tall (fig.2). The camper's total height also varies with the configuration of the satellite and radio antennas on the roof, and also the gap between tent and roof. This space allows for movement between the bed and cab.

The optional Beef Rack crossbars add an additional 2.5 inches of total height to a closed camper (fig.2).

Open, the tent is approximately 62 inches tall, measured externally from the highest point to the bottom of the T-Track that forms the tent's perimeter (fig.3).

Remember to account for any additional height added by tires, suspension, or other modifications when calculating or measuring the total height of the vehicle with the Platform Camper mounted to it.

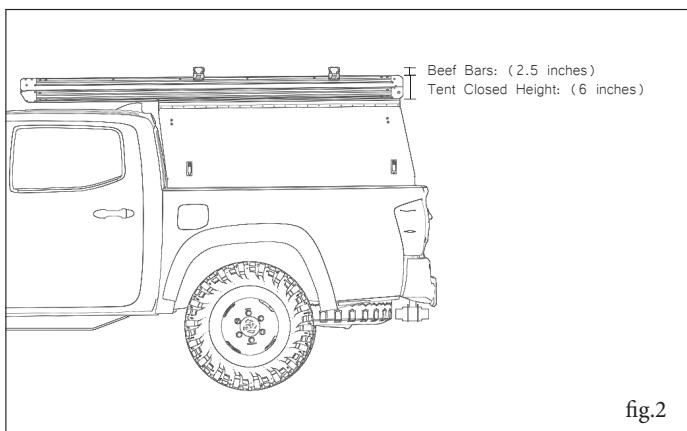


fig.2



fig.3

Sleep Orientation

The interior dimensions of the tent measure 50 inches across (56 inches for the Platform XL), and 90 inches long. Most adults will be comfortable sleeping lengthwise. One can sleep comfortably with your head at either end.

Some may prefer the additional headroom offered by sleeping with their head to the rear of the camper. Others find it easier to climb in and out if they sleep with their head in the narrow end of the wedge. Keep personal preference in mind when selecting a campsite. If a completely level vehicle is not possible, park in such a manner that one's head will remain slightly elevated.

Wind Direction

The tent on the camper is incredibly robust. While the tent can support 75 pounds, evenly distributed, of roof load while open, that weight can lower the wind speed at which the gas struts may start to compress if you orient the wedge pointing into the wind, or wind forward (fig.05, fig.06).

Wind may also create additional considerations such as noise, ventilation, and positive pressure within the tent. Consider wind speed, direction, and shelter when selecting a campsite, and orienting the vehicle. More on that in the Tips and Tricks section.

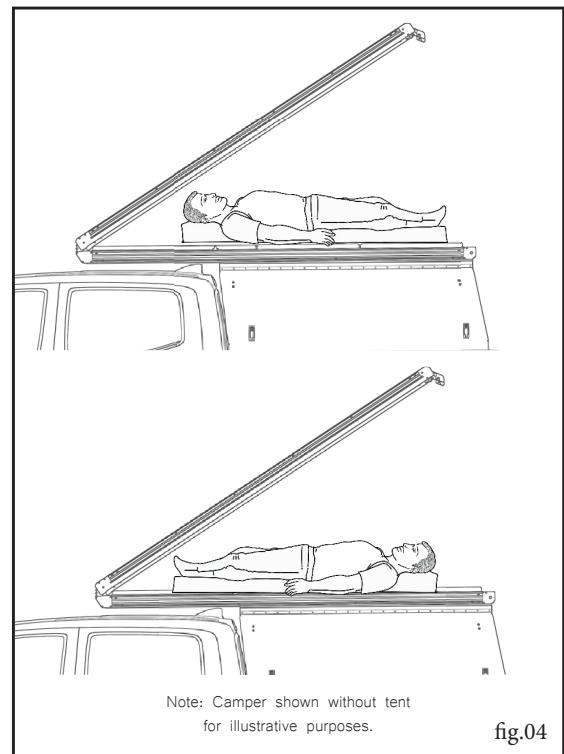
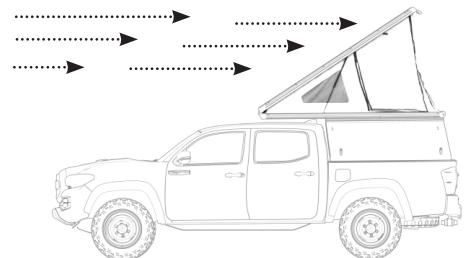
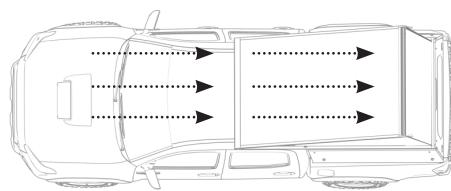


fig.04

Wind Forward



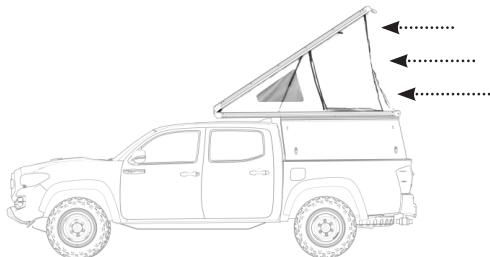
Side View



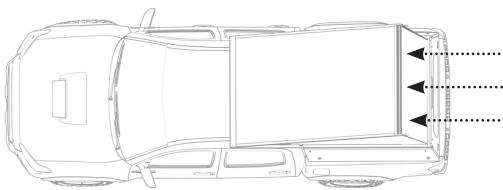
Top View

fig.05

Wind Aft



Side View



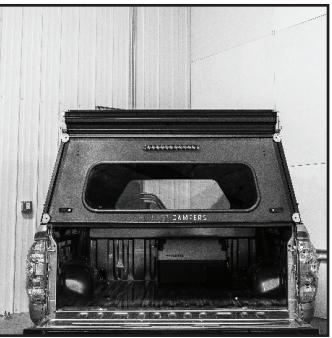
Top View

fig.06

Opening The Camper



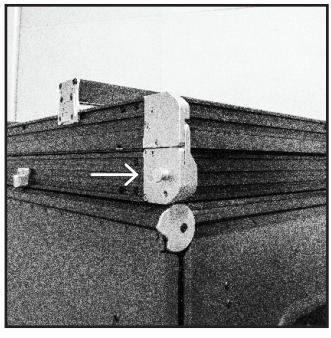
1. Before lowering the truck's tailgate, first fully open the rear panel of the camper. Then, open the truck tailgate. Finally, close the rear panel of the camper.



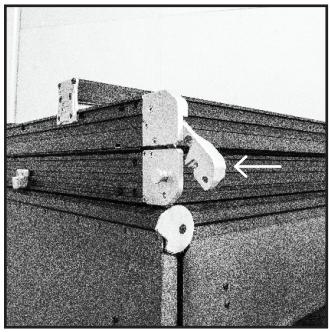
2. With the rear panel on the camper closed, stand on your vehicle's open tailgate or bumper.



3. To open the latches, slide the pin on the side plate outwards, then firmly pull the corresponding latch to the rear and upwards, as far as it will go.



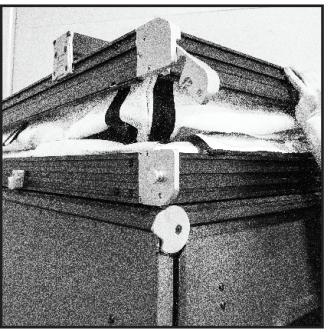
3a. Image of the spring loaded pin located on the rear, driver side, portion of the camper.



3b. Image of the billet aluminum latch in open orientation.

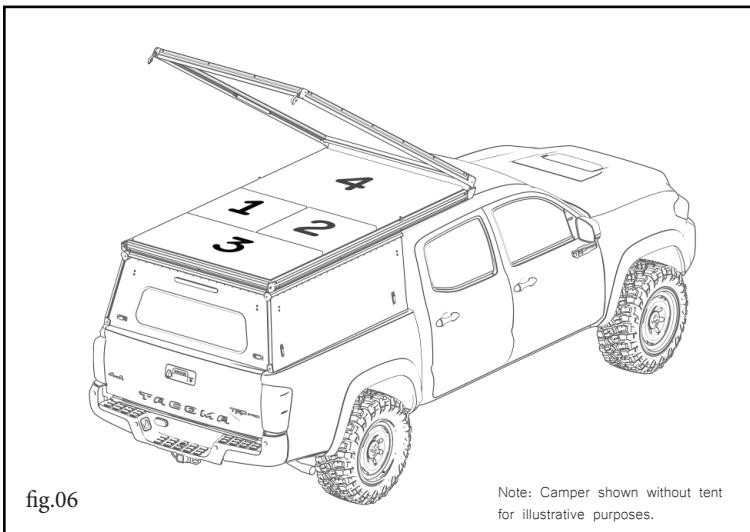


4. Push upwards on the roof; once you've lifted it a few inches the gas struts will take over and fully erect the tent.



4b. Image of tent being lifted.

Using The Transform-A-Floor

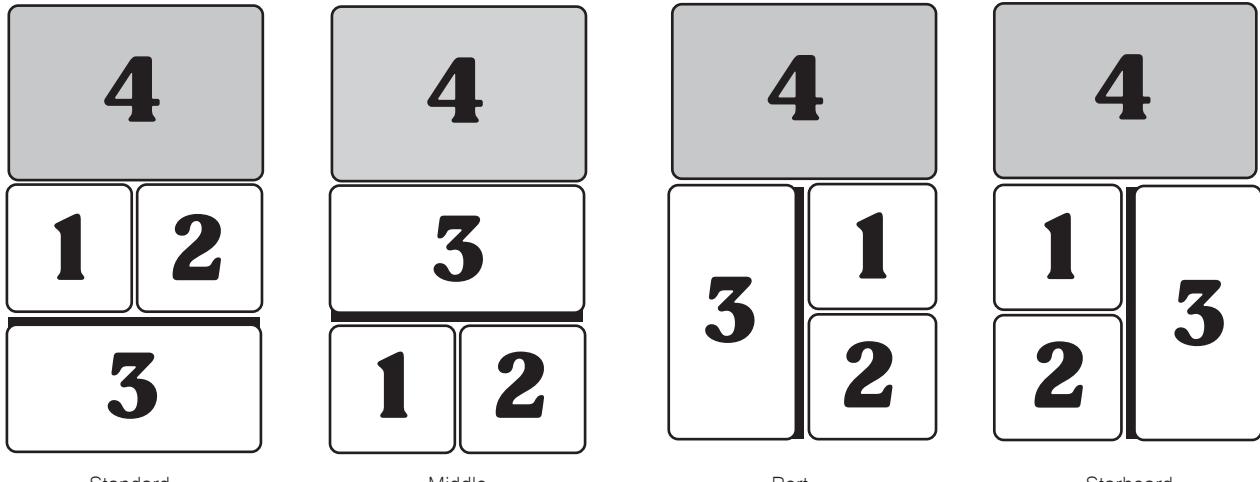


The camper is equipped with three removable and reconfigurable floor panels (Labeled 1, 2, and 3 in fig.06). The panel located towards the front of the camper is fixed (Labeled 4). These are constructed using the same honeycomb thermoplastic material used in the camper roof, along with two-inches of open cell foam and a woven polyester fabric shell. The two square panels (Labeled 1 & 2) are made up of foam, shell and honeycomb panel, while the long rectangle (Labeled 3) offers a removable foam-shell pad that rests atop a removable honeycomb floor panel.

One can arrange the floor panels with the long rectangle to one side, or to the front or rear. One can also leave any or all of them at home, but note that if all panels are not in place, some of the tent material may droop below floor level, and that one may experience dust intrusion into the sleep area without the floor entirely in place.

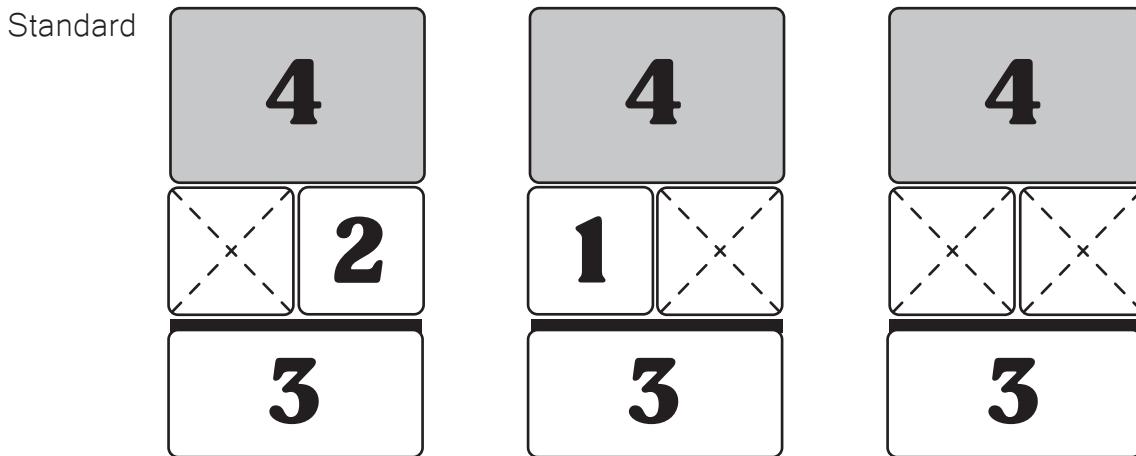
Removing the long rectangle's (Labeled 3) separate pad provides a hard work surface. With the tent raised, this can form a standing height table or desk. Removing some or all of the floor panels will create a convenient place to change clothes while standing, or provide a vaulted ceiling above a seated hang out area in your vehicle bed. When parked, one can store Panels #1-3, bedding, clothes, or similar on top of Panel #4 which is fixed. The tent will not close with any panels #1-3 on top of panel #4.

All Panel Configurations

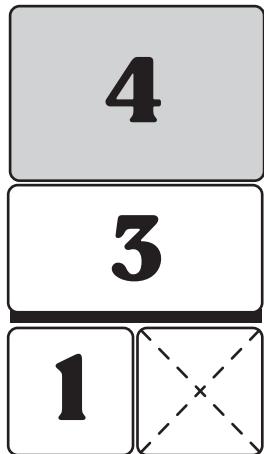
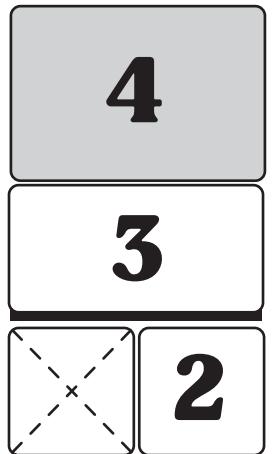


- NOTE: Securely stow all panels in the configurations shown immediately above before moving the vehicle
- The location of Panel #3 dictates the name of configuration, and follows common maritime terminology
- Assume panels #1 and #2 are identical and can be interchanged in configurations
- Fixed panel is grayed out

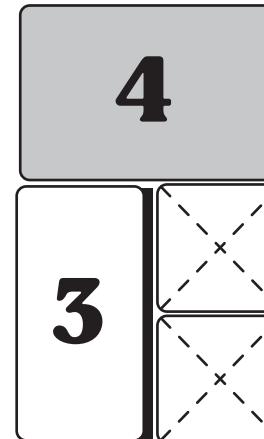
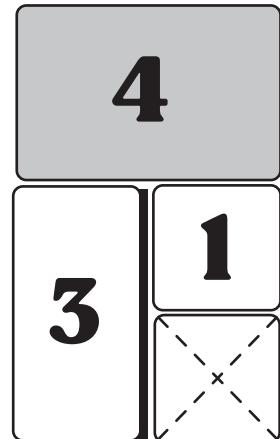
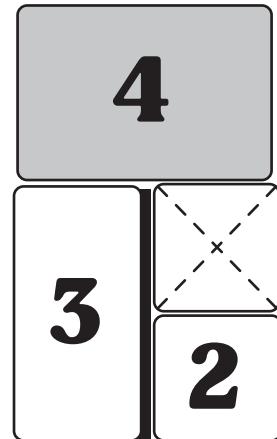
Removed Panel Configurations



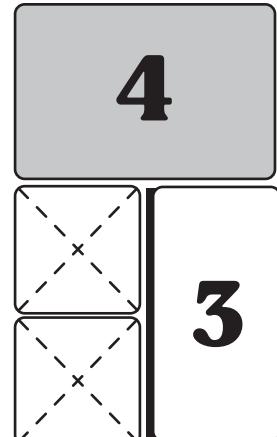
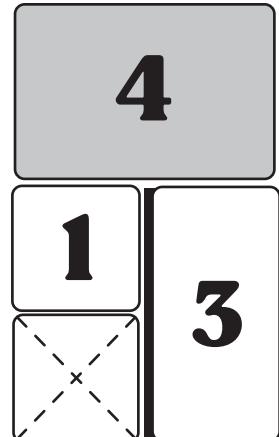
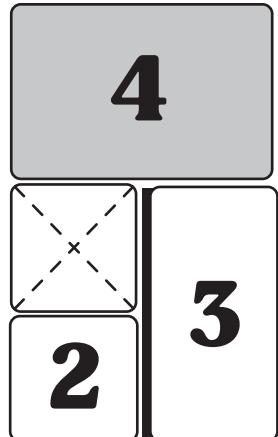
Middle



Port



Starboard



The Tent

One can enter and exit the camper through the rear door, the side door (if equipped), or through the Transform-A-Floor (fig.07). To remove a section of the floor, simply push or pull it upwards. To replace it, simply set it back into place.

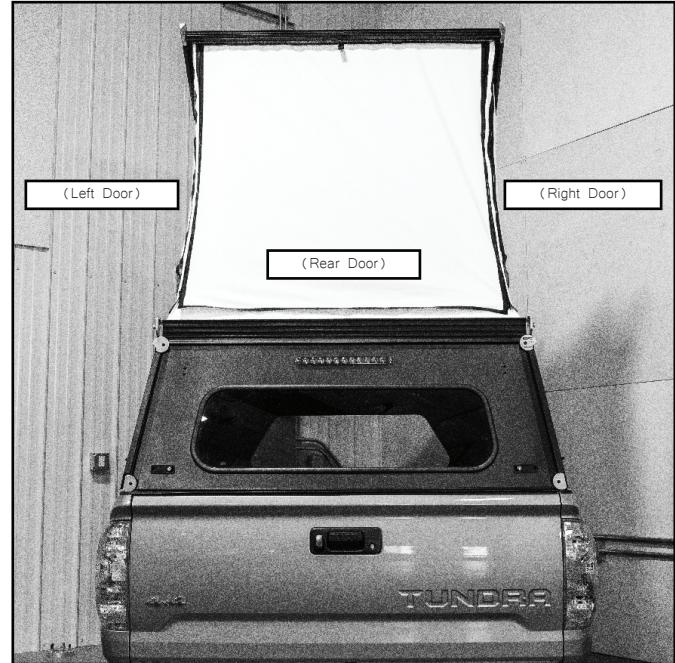


fig.07

Using The Windows

Your Platform Camper is equipped with two small windows on either side, at the narrow end of the wedge, and a large door at the rear (fig.08). Yours may also be equipped with the optional side doors.

Both of the small windows in the wedge feature a non-removable bug mesh, with zipped backers made from the same fabric as the tent body. These are designed to provide ventilation. Because the fabric backer zips closed upwards, and it's incorporated into the tent body at its bottom, any precipitation falling against it will drain externally. Keeping these as open as privacy and weather permit will help keep the tent cool and dry inside. Zip them as closed as necessary to prevent precipitation from blowing into the tent in extreme weather conditions.



fig.08



fig.09

Image of the Left Window zipped up, taken from inside the camper.



fig.10

Image of the Left Window with bug mesh exposed for ventilation, taken from inside the camper.

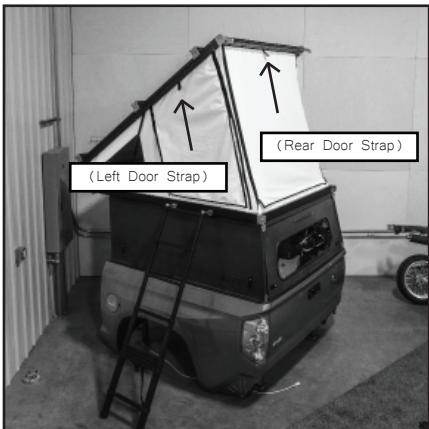


fig.11

Image showing Left and Rear Door Strap. Right Door Strap on other side of tent.



fig.12

Tent fabric rolled up, held in place with carabiner. Tent mesh zipped closed.

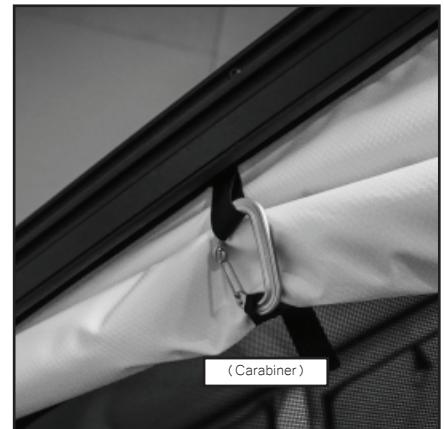


fig.13

Carabiner holding the rolled up tent fabric in place.

The large doors are designed to provide entry and exit points, and can maximize your view and ventilation. You'll find straps hanging down from the roof on both sides of the doors, as well as a carabiner. The fabric or mesh portions can be rolled up and stowed using those straps and carabiner either individually, or together. Due to their height, these zippers are best accessed from inside the tent, or by using a ladder.

Your breath, sweat, and moisture in the air can collect on the tent's interior walls and ceiling. Using the windows and doors to equalize temperature, and create airflow, can help minimize condensation. More on that in Tips and Tricks.

Warning: do not use the door straps, door flaps, or mesh flaps to pull the camper's roof closed.

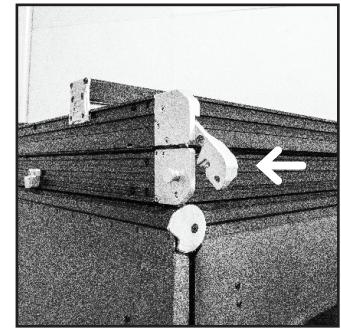
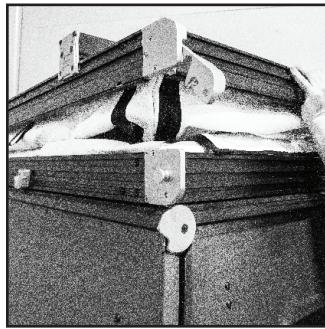
Closing The Tent



1. With the rear panel closed, carefully stand on the tailgate or rear bumper and pull on the rear corners of the tent.

2. When possible, grab the top of the tent extrusion and pull the tent closed.

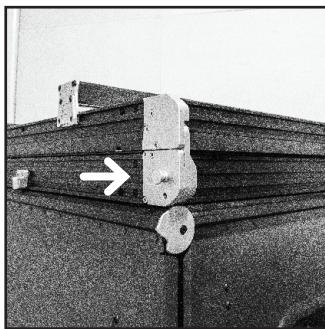
3. Slowly pull the tent down by the extrusion with both hands to remove air from inside. Gently stow the tent fabric inside the borders of the extrusions on all sides. It is easier to compress the tent if the zippers are not fully closed. This allows the air to escape.



Note: Take care not to pinch fabric—or especially zippers—inside the closed extrusion, as this can cause damage. This process is easier than it sounds, and becomes even simpler with a little practice.

4. Ensure all tent fabric is tucked into the interior of the tent.

5. Once the tent is closed, push the latches down and forwards, until they're fully engaged.



6. Ensure that the spring loaded pin is engaged.

7. Repeat steps 4-6 on the opposite side.

Before closing the tailgate, lift the rear panel.

Storing Bedding Inside A Closed Tent

The tent is designed to be as slim as possible when closed. Compressible, backpacking-style sleeping pads, sleeping bags, quilts, and inflatable pillows may fit. Thick foam pillows of the style used on your home bed, and giant bed roll sleeping bags will not.

Because the fabric forms the perimeter of the tent, most of its volume is contained around the edges of the closed tent. That means moving bedding into the center of the tent before closing it may give you a little more space.

Warning: Do not force the tent closed. If you are attempting to store bedding inside a closed tent, the tent should close as easily as it does without that bedding inside. Forcing a tent closed may damage its roof. Bedding may also collect moisture while you sleep. Leaving bedding or other items inside a closed camper tent for extended periods of time may result in mold growth in said items.

Remove and clean any added bedding between use to maintain gear life.

Panel Operation

The aluminum access panels on the sides and rear of the camper are designed to provide access to the vehicle bed, and create rudimentary shelter from the elements. Simply press the portion of each latch containing the lock cylinder to release the lock lever, and allow the panel to lift on its gas struts. To latch the panel closed, lower each one, then press both of its lock levers closed. Verify each lever has latched before driving.



fig.14

Latch closed

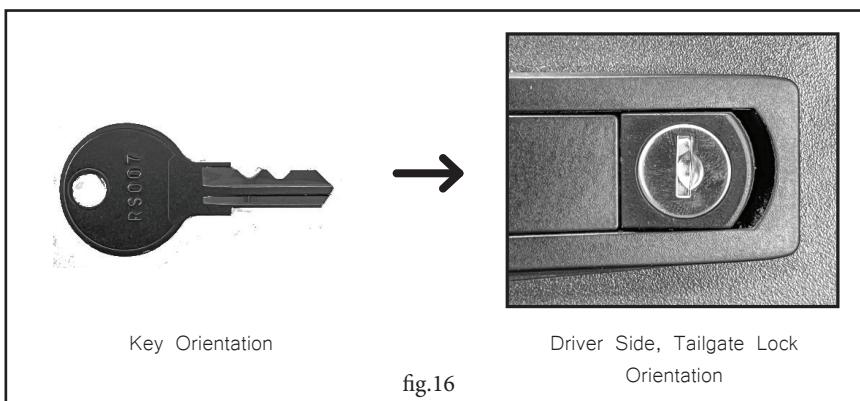


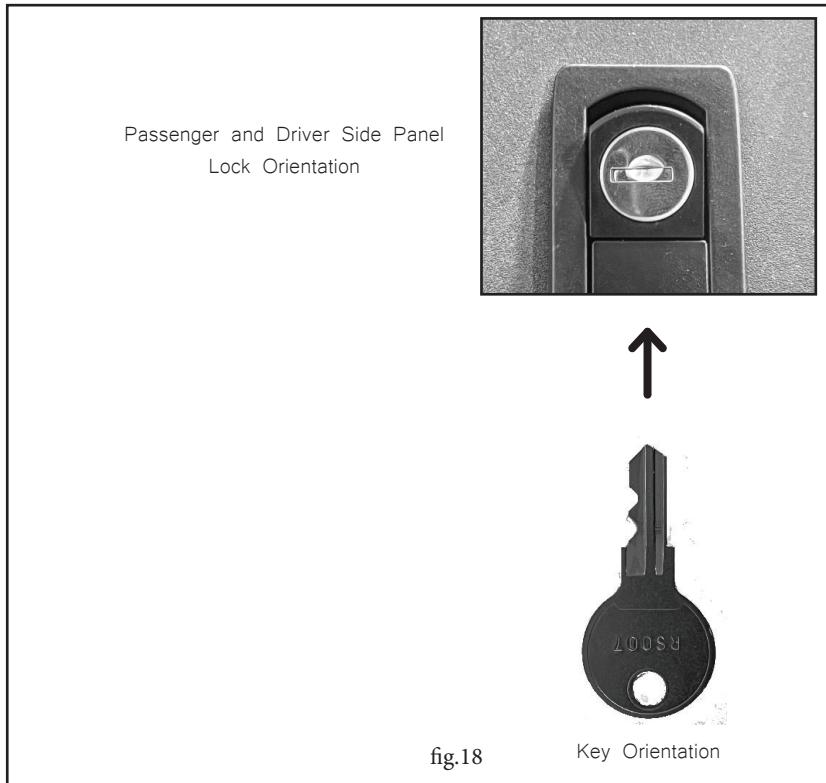
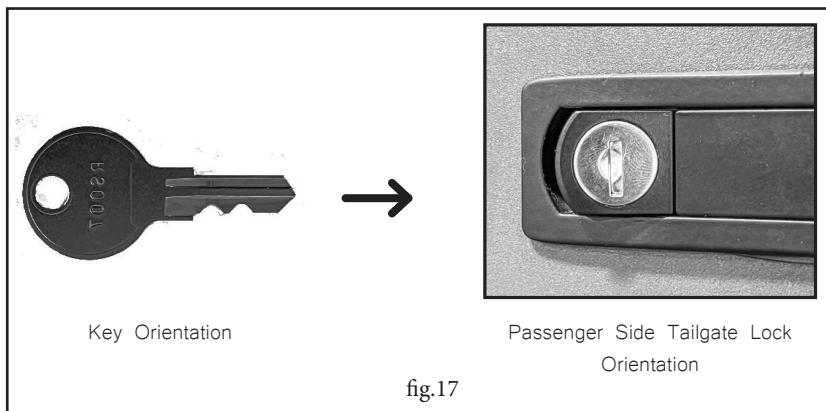
fig.15

Press to open latch

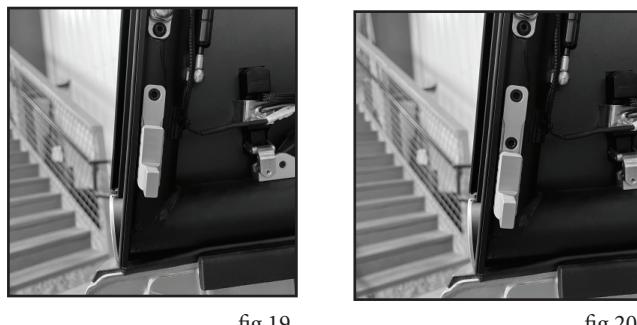
Each latch contains an individual lock cylinder; each one on your camper is keyed identically. If the key slot is perpendicular to the lever, it is unlocked. If the key slot is oriented parallel to the lever it is locked.

NOTE: Panel locks are orientation specific for driver and passenger sides. Do not force the key into any lock to avoid the risk of breaking the key inside of the lock cylinder and damage to the dust cover.





The rear panel features a sliding striker on each side, internally. These are designed to allow you to latch and unlatch that panel from inside the vehicle bed, and work whether the latches are locked or unlocked. Push them down to unlatch, and up to latch. Ensure the strikers are fully raised, and the panel latches are engaged, before driving.



Rear sliding striker in locked position. Image taken of driver side striker.

Rear sliding striker in unlocked position. Image taken of driver side striker.

Camper Maintenance

A wiring harness for the brake light is strapped to the driver side frame of the camper. On most vehicles, simply remove the driver's side taillight, connect the pigtail to the brake light wire and the ground (consult your vehicle's manual for guidance), then route it through your vehicle's body panels and connect it to the brake light harness. Be careful to ensure the pigtail is not pinched, and that it is routed in such a manner it will not snag it with any cargo or occupants. Visually confirm brake light function before driving, and throughout product use.

Check your bed mounts for tightness during the first 500 miles and every 2,500 miles thereafter. For campers made with billet bed clamp mounts use a 5/16-inch allen key to check that the vertical bed mount bolt is torqued to 40 ft-lbs. If a camper is equipped with a different type of bed clamp, please reach out to the GFC support team for proper torque.

The countersunk screws within the cross braces—the diagonal bars within the camper frame—should be checked for tightness within the first 500 miles. Put your hand on each cross brace to check for any play or rattle. If any is present, use a 3/16-inch Allen key and torque wrench to tighten them to 20 ft-lbs. Repeat this process every 2,500 miles thereafter. Each cross brace screw head is marked with a paint pen to provide a visual indication of tightness; if that mark is broken, tighten your cross brace screws to the specified torque and re-mark properly with a paint pen.

We recommend regularly employing Boeshield T-9 to lubricate each panel lock. This is particularly important in winter conditions to prevent water ingress and freezing. Lubricate locks every time the camper is cleaned.

Even if the tent appears to be dry, moisture may accumulate inside. Opening the tent in a dry environment for at least an hour per-week will allow any hidden moisture to evaporate. If storing the vehicle or camper for an extended period in a protected area, store it with the tent open. Fully air out the tent after returning from any camping trip.

Cleaning Your Camper

We do not recommend taking the camper through an automated car wash, whether it is brushed or touchless. Otherwise, one can clean the camper similarly to cleaning vehicles. That includes using a pressure washer at a self-serve car wash, or at home.

Take care to remove the Transform-a-Floor panels and tent floor pads first (if these ever do get soaked, give them plenty of time to dry completely in a warm place), and avoid directing a high pressure nozzle too close to any part or surface, using the same care you would when washing your vehicle.

Using a proper automotive soap will be kinder to finishes and materials than using a home degreaser.

One can also use a pressure washer to clean your tent fabric, inside and out. Employ a 25-degree nozzle if washing at home, and hold any high pressure water source at least two feet away from the fabric.

Open the tent and the panels, and allow everything to dry out completely afterwards.

Camper Accessories

We called this camper the Platform Camper for a reason: it is a blank canvas which one can—and—should adapt to one's needs with the accessories and modifications that work best for an application.

GFC makes many accessories designed just for the Platform Camper. They are compatible with popular racks, awnings, lights, and other parts from third party brands. T-tracks, compatible with our 10-32 Platform T-Nuts, are conveniently located on the extrusion that forms the perimeter of the camper. Track Studs (1/4-20 Hardware) are used on beef racks. Ensure that the weight of all accessories do not exceed the products ratings, or the vehicle's GVWR. Refer to the vehicle's owners manual for this information. Weight of items, within specified limits, mounted to the camper should be evenly distributed about the center of gravity.

Check out gofastcampers.com for our full accessory product offerings.

Using The Camper With Dogs

The Platform Camper's white roof reflects solar radiation and, with the tent closed, provides four inches of fabric, foam, and air gap insulation between the roof and cargo area. The Platform Camper's cargo area runs cooler than that of any fiberglass topper.

While driving, some air naturally flows through the gaps found in most pickup beds, which tend to be located around the front edges and rear tailgate. If you would like additional airflow, close one latch on the Platform Camper's side panel in front of the striker, then secure the other latch on that panel onto its striker. Opening both side panels maximizes ventilation and shade while parked.

Like any vehicle or any topper, the Platform Camper can heat up enough through exposure to the sun that inside temperatures may climb above safe levels, both while parked and in motion. This can occur in even mild ambient temperatures, and varies with conditions.

The size of your truck bed likely allows enough room for a dog to accelerate forwards during a crash, and similar forces can be experienced during normal off-road driving.

Never leave a dog unattended in your Platform Camper. Secure dogs inside a crash tested and safety-certified dog crate that's securely attached to your vehicle.

Tips & Tricks

1. Camping with a partner who wakes up later than you? If the weather's bad, and you want to stay inside while you make coffee or get dressed, then make sure you've positioned the square floor panels on your side of the bed. When you wake up, just pop those out, shove them over the cab, and you'll have room to stand while they sleep.
2. Leaving the square floor panels at home when you're running solo is a great way to minimize the amount of stuff you're carrying and maximize space. But, doing so risks allowing dust to enter your sleeping area and bedding.
3. That long rectangle floor panel (panel 3) makes a for perfect work surface. Just make sure you bring and use disinfectant wipes or spray it down occasionally.
4. Bringing your dog inside of the tent? A fitted sheet set that you can easily take care of in the laundry is going to be the easiest way to cut down on hair.
5. Using the thin, two-inch foam pads for the tent floor is a big part of what enables us to keep the tent so slim, and so versatile. The compromise that has to be made there is that they're not going to be the most comfortable bed you've ever slept on. Rather than throwing a ridiculously thick mattress on top of that foam, instead take advantage of what's already there. The most comfortable camping pads employ both foam and air. Since you've already got the foam, adding a little bit of pressurized, stabilized air is all you need to sleep like royalty. And the best way to achieve that is with a thin self-inflating sleeping pad—think original Therm-A-Rest. Look for a pad that's one-half to one inches thick, and you'll be all set.
6. Mosquitoes and flying insects tend to hover inside wind shadows. Positioning your doors parallel or diagonal to the wind will keep bugs from entering doors when they're opened, without blowing rain inside anytime you open a door.
7. How do you stay warm when it's cold out? Most heating solutions designed for campers are expensive, fragile, and actually compromise your safety and comfort. All those traits run counter to the strengths of the Platform Camper. Instead, use an appropriate sleeping bag for the conditions you'll camp in. Sleeping bags from quality brands include three advertised temperatures: comfort, limit, and extreme. Aim for a bag with a comfort rating at least 10 degrees below the lowest temperature you expect to face, and you'll never sleep cold. And remember: the more insulation you add, the warmer you'll sleep. If you're caught out with an insufficient bag, wearing your clothing layers inside it will keep you warm.
8. Seeing dust or water inside your camper? It's not actually getting in through the panels or tent, but instead your vehicle bed.

You may not be able to see them from the outside, but manufacturers leave large gaps around the front edges and rear tailgate of vehicle beds so that they're able to drain liquids. Tie down points, wiring conduits, and other voids can also allow the elements to enter. There's a bunch of seals, gaskets and such available in the aftermarket, but we like to just treat our vehicle beds like vehicle beds, and store any sensitive gear inside waterproof boxes or bags.

9. If you're in a rush, it's easy to leave a little bit of tent fabric, or a zipper pull, poking out of the closed tent. These can interfere with the seals, or act as a wick to draw water inside. Moving the zippers to a half-closed position may make fully closing the tent easier.
10. Condensation is simply a matter of physics. If the surfaces surrounding the tent are cooler than the air inside, then water vapor will collect into drops on them. The only way to fully eliminate condensation is to totally equalize inside and outside temperatures, which you probably won't find comfortable. Heaters that burn propane produce equal amounts of heat and moisture. Fortunately, nature gives you some tools you can use to minimize condensation. Wind can blow it away, sun will evaporate it, and elevation can minimize the amount of moisture in the atmosphere. Try to facilitate air flow through the camper through both its orientation to the wind and strategic use of ventilation. Leave the tent set up while you cook breakfast or go for a swim in the morning, or pop it open during a lunch break to dry it out. Camp above fog banks, rather than inside them. Learning the cycles of the natural world is the key to enjoying time outdoors.

And that's really the key to getting the most of your GoFastCamper. We make this thing to help you get outside, not keep you in. It'll work as well in snow, rain, cold, heat, or wind as you're able to make it work. Go out there, get uncomfortable, and learn how to do better next time. We're giving you the platform you need for success, it's up to you to make the most of it.

Troubleshooting

You've purchased the strongest, lightest, most durable, and easiest to clean camper ever made. Odds are, nothing is going to go wrong with it. But if it does, here's what we think that will be, and what you can do about it.

Like any other zipper, the zippers on the Platform can be damaged. The easiest way to do that is going to be slamming them shut inside the extrusion. To minimize the risk of that happening, zip all the windows and doors half way open, so the zipper slider is as far away from the edges as possible when the fabric is folded so the tent can be shut.

The rubber gaskets and seals around the interior perimeter of the panels and holding the glass windows in can be cut, damaged, or perish with exposure to the elements. Treat them with a silicone lubricant, avoid directing a high pressure nozzle directly at them at close range, and mind them when loading abrasive, sharp, or heavy materials in and out of your bed. If you do damage a seal or gasket, replacements are available from customer service.

Installing solar panels or roof boxes over the front portion of the tent roof, where it hangs over your cab, can obscure the signal of satellite and radio antennas if they're located underneath. Position those panels or boxes further rearwards to avoid this.

Selecting A Campsite

To sleep most comfortably, ensure the camper is level. Note that modifications to the vehicle's suspension, or weight in the bed can alter the angle at which the vehicle rests, even when parked on a level surface. Check vehicle angles while parked on a surface known to be level—in a garage or shop for instance. Use the horizontal slots in the T-track, the camper's roof, or the bottom edge of the tent to take a level.

If the vehicle offers angle measurements within its infotainment system, note that these may be moved out of spec by modifications or load. Make sure to take the level of vehicle while it is loaded with items in the desired configuration. If items are going to be removed at a campsite, remove those items to ensure accurate leveling.

It can be hard to find a level surface to park on, especially off-road. Starting with how the camper sits on your vehicle, find a surface that positions your camper close to level. From there, alter the height of each corner using Maxtrax, wood, rocks, or similar. If items are taken from a campsite, make sure they are returned to their original location.

Warning: It is not recommended to attempt to level a vehicle using any type of jack. Movement created while climbing in and out, or caused by wind blowing against the open tent could cause the vehicle to slip off the jack, and cause harm to the vehicle, occupants, or those near the vehicle. Some off-road jacks such as the popular hi-lift design will create additional danger if the vehicle slips. Always place the transmission in park (if an automatic transmission), or 1st or reverse gears (if a manual transmission), and securely apply the parking brake. Properly place wheel chocks on all tires.

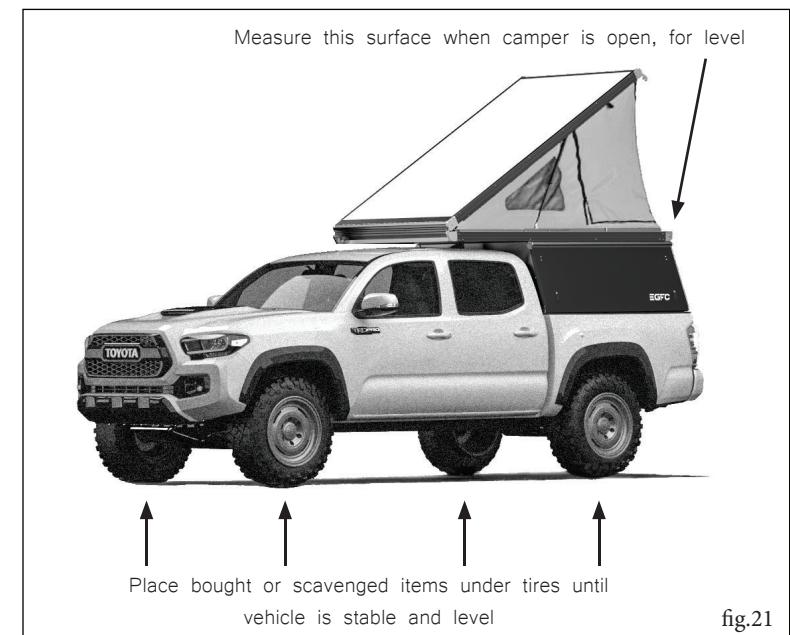


fig.21

Safety

1. Ventilation: Use the doors and windows to keep the tent ventilated at all times. Doing so will reduce condensation, increase comfort, and prevent suffocation. Do not run your vehicle while using the camper and keep all sources of fumes far away from your camper.
2. Fire: The tent is not flame proof. Keep fire hazards well away from your camper.
3. Falls: Do not jump, backflip, or dive from the tent or the camper's roof. Zip all screens fully closed to prevent accidental falls.
4. Pinching: Keep fingers and other extremities clear of the excursion and hinges when closing.
5. Load: Do not exceed the load capacity of your vehicle, which you'll find listed in its owners manual, or inside the driver's door jamb.
6. Children: Do not allow children to use any portion of the camper unsupervised.

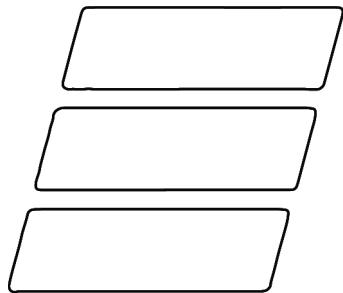
Warranty

Please review all warranty information at gofastcampers.com or give us a call!

**DRIVE FAST.
CAMP WELL.**



Drive responsibly.



This side down.