

**2010 New Year  
Woods Industrial Prospector Tent  
Kawarthas, Ontario  
CANADA**



Over the 2009 Christmas Break, we (myself, partner Tim and our better halves, Marissa and Stephanie), planned a winter camping trip to bring in the New Year. Our destination was in the Kawarthas region of Ontario where temperatures this time of year can reach -25C before wind chill. The main focus on this trip was to put our gear to the test.

Our friends at Woods Canada loaned us a 12 x 14 Prospector Tent. This industrial model features 5' walls and is made using 17.6 oz heavy-duty unbleached cotton duck fabric. The tent came complete with poles and a stovepipe ring (optional). We also had the good fortune to borrow a titanium wood stove (thanks Dave) and eagerly awaited the chance to try this combination out in sub zero weather.

We arrived in the parking lot at 11am and loaded our Woods canoe packs along with the tent, stove and a barrel on our trusty wooden toboggans. From here we trekked in through hilly terrain before we found an ideal spot to set up camp. While Tim and Stephanie went back for the last of the gear, Marissa and I easily erected the tent and set up the stove. There were no instructions needed and everything functioned perfectly, in fact we had camp pretty much set up by the time they got back.

This tent is made for heavy use and needs no delicate handling. The material is thick and durable and put together with heavy stitching. Extra care is taken to sew additional material in areas where fatigue may otherwise cause wear. The poles are sturdy and made to fit together with ease. There are five exterior poles for each sidewall and one main ridge pole inside the tent. Two end poles and an optional center pole support this ridge pole. We found this to be a good place to hang our wet clothes and a couple of lights. By laying down ground tarps and overlapping the sod cloth we were able to keep out the drafts and critters. On this trip we brought along four cots, which were set up with enough room left over to sit around the wood stove and cook dinner. With the fire burning through the night, we slept well knowing that the tent is not only water repellant but also flame resistant.



I would have to say that the Woods Prospector Tent lived up to all the expectations we had. It performed very well and provided us with warm and dry shelter with plenty of room to move. These tents are made to last and need little maintenance; while the exterior tent roof was a mixture of ice, snow and melt water from the stove not a drop of moisture came through. In fact the Prospector Tent felt less like a tent, and more like a permanent structure on our trip.

As the tent and poles are of substantial weight and size, this tent is best suited for longer stays or as a base camp for expeditions, environmental studies, hunting, fishing etc...where it functions as a real home away from home.



If I had to change anything about this tent it would be to see additional loops sewn into the inside ridge lines for slinging clothes lines in the interior. Perhaps also the doorway straps could be upgraded using clasps or clips of some sort, as tying a bow or undoing one can sometimes be a little tricky in sub zero temperatures.

Upon tear-down, if wet (or covered in ice and snow, as in our case) the tent should be hung up to dry and not left packed wet.

After having gotten a feel for the Prospector, we're looking forward to taking it out again. The next test will be in a couple of weeks as part of wilderness training. We will do follow up reviews as the season progresses. If it can get through -25C with snow, we can only imagine how cozy it would be in spring or fall weather.

Thanks again to Woods Canada, who continue to work hard to produce high quality packs and tents right here in Canada as it has been done since 1885. The Woods name stands for quality, dependability and is part of our Canadian heritage.

I should also add that the Woods canoe packs are perfect for this type of trip. They were easily carried or can be loaded on a toboggan, and seemed to mold into shape once you pack them and strap them down. Their rugged construction ensures that your gear gets there in one piece.

Both the tents and canoe packs are available from the Canadian Outdoor Equipment Co :  
<https://www.canadianoutdoorequipment.com/store/>

If you'd like to see more pictures and video of our trip, please visit:  
<http://www.canadianoutdoorequipment.ca/downloads.shtml>

See you out there!

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Accompanying video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSRu7D6-6X0>

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