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TOP 5 THINGS TO LOOK FOR BEFORE YOU BUY CAMPING GEAR



1. Simple Setup
2. Sturdy Pole Design
3. Space

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FIND THE BEST CAMPING GEAR SLEEPING COTS

By Frederic Madore

For some people camping is about roughing but for some camping is a family experience and most of the time they want to be comfortable. If you are looking for comfort during your camping trip then camping gear sleeping cots should make a huge difference.

If you have ever slept in a sleeping bag on the ground you probably know that there is almost no way to be fully comfortable. No matter how much you inspect the ground before installing your tent there will always be rock or ground deformation to make you uncomfortable. So having a sleeping cot is probably the best of things.

Now you are probably wondering, what is the best way to get good information on camping gear sleeping cots and which ones are the most comfortable for the price? The easiest way get answer to those questions would be to compare camping gear sleeping cots.

To do that you could use the internet by typing things like "camping gear sleeping cots". By doing this, comparisons are just a few clicks away.

Another way to do this would be to find a reputable online

camping gear retailer, they will provide you with amazing support, good prices and all the info you need to get the best camping gear sleeping cot. Below you will find several brands of cots that are known to be of quality.

Camping Gear Sleeping Cots Information



One Brand worth mentioning would be the LL Bean Swedish camping gear sleeping cot. Their cots are very well made and they won't squeak when laid on. You can purchase them for around eight dollars.

They also have another more luxurious version of this cot that comes with foam padding providing you with more comfort. That version can be purchased for around a hundred dollars.

Another quality brand would be the Alps Mountaineering Camp cots. They are cheaper than the previous ones (around sixty five dollars) and they are wider and longer. This is very good because this will prevent your elbows to bump on the steel bars at night.

Usually people move a lot during their sleep, this type of camping gear sleeping cots will allow you the extra moving room. Another type of camping gear sleeping cots is Rothco.

They fold up into a smaller size and they are very easy to pack. Of course it's a more basic cot than the two previous other but it sell for about twenty dollars.

There is also Cabella that make very good sleeping cots. They usually have a three-inch thick foam pad. And for about ninety dollars you get a 38x84 sleeping cot. Of course there are many other brands and models listed on the Internet.

The ones that have been enumerated in this article are just a small representation of what you can expect to get on the market. Depending on your needs and your budget, you will be sure to find the right camping gear sleeping cots for your need. Just make sure you take the time to gather enough information to get the best gear available for your money.

QUALITY CAMPING TENTS: TOP 5 THINGS TO LOOK FOR BEFORE YOU BUY CAMPING GEAR

By Keith Cabarrus

What makes a quality Camping Tent? There are many things but the Top 5 are simpler than you may think. So before you buy read this article and make the right decision.

1. Simple Setup

I don't know about you but when I am camping simple is always best. The same can be said for the camping tents you buy so if you like spending your money wisely keep it simple. The sooner you put up your tent the more time you will have for the great outdoors. So before you buy any camping gear check out the setup process. A simple pole design tent will go along ways when you are trying to set up your camping equipment and will in turn help your trip more enjoyable.

2. Sturdy Pole Design

Nature as we all know is unpredictable whether it be rain or wind your camping gear needs to be able to withstand whatever comes it's way. Camping Tents with a sturdy 3 pole design are stable in gusty and rainy weather. Camping Equipment that have a good pole design will save you a lot of headaches when nature becomes unfriendly.



3. Space

The more space you have in your camping tents the better. Comfort is key when dealing with the outdoors. Additional space will allow you to have a great nights rest and it also comes in handy when you are camping with family and friends. The best camping gear you can buy has great spacing and separate rooms like in the luxury tents on the market.

4. Ventilation

"Is it hot in here or is it just me." You have probably heard this expression before but if you buy a camping tent with poor ventilation you will be hearing it a lot more. Camping tents that have mesh panels in the interior walls allow maximum air flow through your tent. Camping gear with twin doors offer good ventilation because of more space for that gentle outdoor breeze to flow through your tent creating a more desired living space.

5. Heavy Duty Materials

Your camping equipment will be tested in the elements so you better have the best materials your money can buy. Make sure your camping tents flooring is made tough because it as we all know will see the most wear. The better the materials the longer your camping gear will last saving you money in the long run and giving you the opportunity to enjoy camping for years to come.

BEST CAMPING STOVE: ARE YOU RAMBO?

Care of outdoorcampinginfo.com

Okay, some of you are former military, or you just like to 'rough it' - so your idea of the best camping stove is anything that works - a tin can, an old altoid's box - perhaps just a spit made out of a live branch that you've chewed the bark off of... Or perhaps you prefer cold C-Rats, just to bring back memories of the good times you holed up in a fighting hole (civilians know it as a 'fox hole') for days on end.



But my best guess is that most of you aren't Rambo, or trying to emulate him - you just want to get away from civilization for a while, but you don't particularly care to 'rough it' too much, so you're going to make a decision about the best way to cook your food. The best camping stove is going to depend on just how you like to camp - are you a loner? Hiking in from a distance?

Or are you with friends and family, and the car is just 50 feet 'thataway'? Is this going to be a single day or two of camping? Or are you out for a week or two? These factors are going to play a key role in what sort of outdoor cooking stove is the best one for you.

The Backpacker - hiking in to a camp site on foot - is going to want a stove that's light-weight and compact. Trust me, 5 miles out on that hike, you're going to be regretting every excess ounce you packed in your backpack - so weight is a big factor. So unless you're in the service, and can just order a Private to carry it - you'll want to consider carefully what the best camping stove will be if you're hiking in to your campsite from a distance.

Some camping areas forbid open fires due to scarce wood resources or forest fire dangers, so in cases like this, you don't really have a choice, you're going to need some form of outdoor camping stove that will get you fed. You'll also need to consider the two choices you have for fuel - most backpacking stoves use either canister fuel or liquid fuel. For larger groups of campers - your better choice is going to be a

liquid fueled cooking stove, since liquid fuels are cheaper.

Liquid fuels are also better for winter or high altitude camping. Canister fuels are easier to use, and it can be difficult to tell how much fuel you have left. But for the single hiker, or a couple, as long as you aren't in winter temperatures (canister's perform poorly in the cold), the advantages of a canister stove will be decisive. Weighing in at just 14 ounces is one popular choice, the 'Jetboil Flash' cooking system.

Wood Stoves are large and bulky - but if you're heading to an area where you have plenty of firewood laying around to gather, and you're with a larger group, driving in - this may be the best choice for you. One advantage, in my opinion, is the smell is so much better with a wood burning stove.

You can't get too much cheaper than using free wood for your fuel, so if you don't like the idea of expensive fuels, this might be the choice you pick. Make sure that the area you're going camping in doesn't have any restrictions on wood gathering - you'll be seriously out of hot food if you can't find any wood for your wood stove!

Nor is a wood stove going to be particular easy - just starting the fire is going to be more difficult than the 'push button' solutions that many backpack or propane stoves use. So you'll need to know how to start a fire, and for you camping newbies out there, it's not quite as easy as tossing a match into a pile of wood. (That only works in homes with no homeowner's insurance.)

But if you don't mind the slower cooking, the smell of woodburning, and the soot - perhaps this is your best camping stove.

Propane Camping Stoves: Now we come to the 'heavy hitters' of the best camping stove categories - the propane stove. If your family and friends are along - and you want ease and comfort, then propane is for you. If you want cheap fuel, this isn't for you - but if you want a fuel you can get just about anywhere, and ease of use, this is your choice. You'll be cooking just the same as if you were still at home.

These aren't the sort of stoves you want to backpack in to a campsite - but if you're driving in to a campground - these are the ticket for you! Although the fuel is more expensive - it's readily available virtually anywhere in the U.S, Canada, and

most of Europe. If your camping is more exotic than that, then be careful to have a good supply on hand!

Propane stoves generally come in one or two burner models, but you can even find three burner 'deluxe' propane stoves - so if you have a larger group, think about how many burners you want before you make your purchase.

One or two people can get away with a one or two burner stove - but if you have a real crowd, you'll need something bigger. The last consideration for propane stoves is that these are generally considered to be the safest types of camping stoves - just make sure you tighten the connections - and there's nothing to spill or cause problems - so if you're considered a klutz by your family and friends, a good propane tank is the way to go.

Multi Fuel Camping Stoves: Able to work with Coleman liquid fuel, unleaded gasoline, or kerosene, the Coleman Multi-fuel camping stove isn't really the choice if you need to backpack it in... but if you're heading to all sorts of strange places, and aren't really sure about fuel availability, this is the one for you.

This is a frequent choice of American military serving in Afghanistan or Iraq, as you often don't know what fuel you'll have access to. With the same advantages that your typical propane stove has, this is a good choice if you want ease of use. The Coleman Multi-fuel model can be filled up before the trip, and last all weekend long.

Liquid fuels are generally going to be cheaper than propane tanks, but more expensive than free firewood - but this isn't going to be quite as easy to work with as most propane camping stoves. Lying in the middle for ease of use between a propane stove and a wood stove, it's still an excellent choice - particularly if your camping takes place in out-of-the-way places.

The final choice? There's no way for anyone to choose without also defining how and where they camp. But I hope you'll have some ideas here to narrow down your search for the best camping stove for your next trip. I've avoided talking about some possibilities, such as alcohol fueled stoves, solid fuels or solar stoves, because those are in the more exotic realms of camping gear, and I wanted to speak about more commonly used camping stoves. The best

camping stove for you is going to end up being a personal choice based on how you enjoy your camping.

If you and your family are ready for camping adventure, be sure that it doesn't turn out into a bad memory - see what camping gear you need, and camping tips to make your trip the best one ever.

TOP 5 SURVIVAL KNIVES (AND HOW TO CHOOSE THE ONE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU)

By David Markham

One tool, which can make or break you in a survival situation, is a good knife. And although it's said that the best knife is the one you have with you, and a lot can be done with the proper skills and any knife, there are features which make some survival knives better choices than others..

The choice of which knife to carry in the backcountry is a highly personal one, and what's right for one person with one skillset may be wrong for another person with different skills in the same situation. However, there are some general guidelines for choosing a good survival knife, and most of the more popular choices tend to conform to these standards:

- **Fixed blade:** A folding knife is handy for fitting in your pocket, but because the blade and the handle are two separate pieces joined by a hinge, the chances for breakage are much higher than with a fixed blade design. Folding knives also tend to have shorter and thinner blades, which limits the ways they can be used, and they are can be much less durable – the average pocketknife probably wouldn't last very long cutting saplings or chopping kindling prying or being pounded on the butt with a rock.
- **Full tang:** The blade of the knife should be a full tang design, which means that the steel of the blade continues all of the way to the end of the handle, in one piece. Knives with only partial tangs are weaker when subjected to unusual stress, which is what they might be exposed to in a survival situation. Many so-called survival knives tout their hollow handle, in which emergency items can be kept, but a hollow handle will be weaker than a solid one in most cases. Another plus to a good survival knife is a pommel on the butt end of the tang and handle, which can help the knife to stand up to being hammered on the end.
- **Comfortable, non-slip handle:** The handle of a good survival knife doesn't have to pass a beauty test, it just needs to be a comfortable size and shape for your hand, and be designed to be easy to keep a grip on. Other pluses for the handle are a lanyard hole and a slight bulge at the butt end, to

keep the knife from slipping out of your hand, and a good finger guard between handle and blade (especially on the side with the edge).

- **Thick blade:** The best survival knife blades look really fat compared to the average knife, but the added thickness of the blade means that it can stand up to hard wear and tear and unusual usage much better than other knives can. Suggested thicknesses range from 5/32" to 1/4".
- **Length of blade:** Four to six inches is usually the recommended length for a survival knife blade. Knives which are much smaller or larger than this won't have the same versatility, but the choice of length is a personal one.
- **Easy to sharpen and hone:** Both the steel that the knife is made out of, as well as the profile of the edge (the style of grind, i.e. hollow, flat, compound), should be taken into account. The best choice of steel for a survival knife would be one which is not too hard as to be brittle or difficult to sharpen in the field, but hard enough to keep a decent edge on it. The edge profile is important to consider, as hollow-ground blades can be incredibly sharp, but extremely difficult to sharpen in the backcountry, whereas a compound grind holds a decent edge yet can be sharpened much easier on the go.

KA-BAR USMC Utility Knife:



This iconic American knife is one of the all-time favorites for military, survivalists, and outdoors sportsmen, and has been field tested by generations of Marines. The KA-BAR was originally produced during WWII for the United States Marine Corp, and the knife quickly became accepted as the standard for a soldier's daily work knife.

This knife is a no-frills workhorse with a classic look, and with its 7" blade length, it's also quite a long knife (11 7/8"). The KA-BAR has a stacked leather handle and a pretty generous finger guard, and the flat-ground edge is dead-simple to sharpen.

Tom Brown Tracker:

On the other end of the spectrum is the Tracker, a knife designed by Tom Brown, Jr, a respected tracker and wilderness survival expert. The blade on the tracker is a shorter length (4 ¼”), but the overall length is the same as the KA-BAR.

What really sets this knife apart is the design of the blade and edge, which is quite different from most. The mini saw blade on the back, the section on the edge for drawknife usage, and fact that the shape of the blade and handle lend itself easily to chopping, turn this from a survival knife into a survival tool.

SOG SEAL Team Knife:

SOG is one of the top fixed blade knife manufacturers in the world, and their SEAL Team knife is built with extreme abuse in mind. The knife was designed for optimum sharpness, edge retention, tip and blade breaking limits, torsion, salt water immersion, and gas and acetylene torch resistance, plus durability for chopping, hammering, prying, penetration and cutting applications.

The blade is 7” long and .24” thick, with a partial serration on the edge, and the overall length of the knife is 12.3”. Fans of shorter blades, and non-serrated edges, may find the Field Pup to be more to their liking.

Cold Steel SRK:



Cold Steel is another high quality knife maker, and the company’s SRK model is no exception to that. SRK stands for Survival Rescue Knife, and the design speaks to discerning knife owners who desire a versatile knife which is capable of withstanding tons of abuse.

The blade is 3/16” thick and 6” long, with the whole knife measuring in at 10 3/4”. The handle has a single finger guard and a heavily checkered grip, making for an easy-to-grip knife.

Fallkniven A1 Swedish Survival Knife:

One of the lesser known of manufacturers in this group is Fallkniven, of Sweden, but they have a great survival knife option in their model A1. The A1 is a full tang knife, and the 6.3” long blade is made from .24” thick laminated VG10 steel (overall length is 11”). The handle is checkered Kraton, and features both a lanyard hole and finger guard.

CHOOSING AN OUTDOOR CAMPING LANTERN

By Matt Heeb

When heading out on your next camping trip make sure you're prepared for that night time camp setup or for the poker game inside your tent with a camping lantern. Camping lanterns are great for lighting up small areas like tents or picnic tables. With a few different kinds of lanterns like kerosene, propane, and battery powered getting the right one for your next camping adventure can be a tricky task.



Propane Lanterns

Propane camping lights are great for a wide variety of campers and situations. A propane lantern works well in almost any condition and is super easy to operate. With a propane light you usually just pop in a portable propane canister and you're ready to go. Finding fuel for your lantern is easy and most camping or general stores will carry disposable propane canisters. On average a propane lantern will last anywhere from 4-24 hours depending on how large a tank you are using and the construction of the lantern.

Propane lanterns provide around 45-200+ watts of light but the high watt models usually take more propane so plan accordingly. If you plan on using a propane lantern in the winter be advised that you might notice decreased performance if operating below 0 degrees. Overall these lanterns will work great for the largest amount of campers.

Kerosene Lanterns

Another type of fuel, the kerosene lanterns are great for campers that aren't afraid to fuel their own gear. These lanterns aren't as easy to use and they come in a few different styles. For kerosene lanterns the two most popular designs are wick and mantle. Wick lanterns will produce an odor but burn at a lower heat, a mantle kerosene lantern

burns at a higher heat, doesn't produce odor, and burns whiter.

The mantle kerosene lantern provides the best lighting of the two types but also uses a lot more fuel and has the added risk of over heating. These outdoor lanterns need to be watched closely when used indoors as they are one of the more dangerous types of lanterns. A plus to mantle kerosene lanterns is that they also double as a heater because of their high operating temperatures.

Battery Powered Lanterns

The safest of all types of camping lights is the battery powered camping lantern. Battery powered lanterns provide great amounts of light and depending on which type of bulb you get you'll be able to have hours and hours of constant lighting. If you are looking for the longest life out of a battery powered light, look for a LED lantern. LED's will give you the longest life but aren't as bright as standard battery powered lights.

With a battery powered lantern you can use them indoors or outdoors and changing the batteries are very easy. One thing to keep in mind when buying a battery powered lantern is the cost of batteries as most battery powered lanterns are very cheap to purchase but the cost of batteries to operate them can be great.

FLASHLIGHTS: HOW TO CHOOSE

By John Higgins

Although headlamps have surged in popularity, flashlights remain a good choice whenever a handheld light is preferred, such as:

- any time you want the strongest portable beam available.
- when dexterity and precision in controlling the light is important.
- being able to set down a light to work on a task.
- signaling.

Advances in LED (light-emitting diode) technology and battery efficiency have resulted in flashlights that are smaller, lighter and brighter than they were just a few years ago.

What is the best LED flashlight for you? This article will help you narrow your selection.



Understanding Your Flashlight Choices

The key factors to compare when selecting a flashlight:

- Light output
- Battery type and run time
- Size and weight

Flashlights range from under \$20 to over \$200, yet they may be the same size. What are the differences? Brightness is the biggest one. A pricier light is more powerful due to the use of advanced bulb, battery and circuitry technology.

A rechargeable battery can add to the cost, as can features such as strong impact- and water-resistance, effective heat dissipation and multiple lighting modes.

Shopping in person? Check out the following:

- How does the light switch on and off? Could it be inadvertently switched on inside your pack? Or, if you plan to use it in cold conditions, how easily could you switch it on or off wearing gloves?
- Does it appear rugged enough (or, conversely, light enough) for your needs?
- How does it feel in your hand?
- Is a tool required to change batteries?

Flashlight Performance

Introduced in 2009, ANSI FL1 standards for flashlights ensure that models are tested and rated in the same way.

Compliance with these standards is voluntary and the manufacturers do their own testing, but most major brands (e.g., Fenix, Inova, MagLite and Princeton Tec) now include the following performance data on their packaging.

Light Output



Measured in lumens. This is a measure of the intensity of the light coming out of the flashlight, on the highest brightness setting powered by new batteries. It may also be shown for multiple light settings. This is a great comparison tool, but does not tell the whole story about brightness.

Beam intensity, distance and type all influence the effectiveness of a light in different applications. Light output can range from a modest 20 lumens (great for reading a book) to a terrain-scorching 3500 lumens.

Beam Distance



Measured in meters. This is how far the light will shine before the brightness diminishes to the equivalent of the light from a full moon.

Full moon illumination is considered adequate for safe and careful travel outdoors. This distance will vary with the brightness setting selected.

Run Time



Measured in hours. How long does it take the light output to drop to 10% of the rated output on new batteries, rounded to the nearest quarter hour. Light output may gradually decrease over time, or remain largely constant and then suddenly decrease. Run time is commonly given for each light setting. A Runtime graph, if available, provides the best illustration of the performance of a light over time.

Impact Resistance



Measured in meters. Lights are tested by dropping them 6 times onto concrete at the rated distance. This test is primarily to ensure the light remains functional after occasional accidental drops. It is not a test of resistance for a light being run over, being struck with a heavy object or being used to strike other objects.

Water Resistance

Rated using the IPX system. Water resistance is important if using your light in the rain or around bodies of water. Three ratings are used:



Indicates an IPX4 rating, which is splash resistant from all angles, after the impact test has been applied.

Indicates a water submersion rating, also after the impact test.

IPX7 – temporary immersion: up to 30 minutes at a depth of 1m.

IPX8 – submersion: up to 4 hours at the specified depth.

For further discussion of technical lighting topics, see the REI Expert Advice article, Headlamps: How to Choose.

Additional Features and Functions

Some or all of these non-ANSI-rated attributes will also influence your flashlight selection:

Bulb Type

Advancements in LED technology have rendered other bulb types almost obsolete. Incandescents such as krypton bulbs still exist in a few flashlight models, but it is hard to beat the energy efficiency, run time, impact resistance and brightness options of an LED flashlight.

Beam Type

The lens reflector that surrounds a bulb influences how the light is dispersed. The 3 common options:

Flood (or fixed): A single beam width. Good for general tasks in camp or while walking.

Spot (or focused): A single beam condensed into a spotlight to penetrate a long distance. This is best for route-finding or other fast-paced activity.

Adjustable: Beam width ranges from wide to focused, or any point in-between. This means, for example, a climber looking for the next pitch would use a spot beam; to study a map, a flood beam.

Regulated Output

Lights with a regulated power supply maintain a steady, near-

peak brightness level throughout most of the batteries' life cycle. Near the end, however, light output drops off abruptly and significantly. Unregulated lights start bright then progressively grow dimmer as they drain power from the batteries.

Battery Type

The type and availability of replacement batteries is often a factor in selecting a flashlight.

Disposable: The most common battery sizes in use, AAA or AA, are readily available. CR123A is also a common choice, but is more expensive and can be harder to find. Their upside is a higher voltage output for a smaller size and weight, making possible a brighter flashlight in a smaller, lighter package. Flashlights using D cell batteries are still available if you want a baton-sized tool for security or a light that will not get lost in a pocket.

Rechargeable: Built-in lithium-ion batteries can be recharged through a USB connection from a computer, AC or DC outlet or solar panel. The higher upfront cost is more than made up for by the low ongoing running cost, no need for disposable batteries and reduced waste.

Renewable: Flashlights with a built-in battery energized by a hand crank or solar panel are ideal for emergency kits.

Caution: Do not use lithium or lithium-ion batteries with any flashlight unless recommended by the manufacturer. You risk damaging a light by mismatching it with lithium batteries.

Modes

A single setting is sufficient for general-purpose use. Some models offer 2 or more modes like low, medium, high and boost). You may rarely use more than one mode, but having the option to throw an extra-strong beam on demand can be reassuring. The brighter the mode, the shorter the runtime. Some models may offer special modes like a strobe or SOS feature.

User programmable modes or mode sequencing may be an option. This may be a feature that is integrated into the flashlight, or set up on software and downloaded to the light

via a USB cable.

Controls

The type of on/off and lighting mode switches is important for some users. Push buttons and sliders are typically thumb operated. A rotating bezel can also serve as a switch, requiring 2 hands to operate. A safety lock feature prevents the light from being accidentally turned on, helping prevent unexpected flat battery exasperation and inconvenience.

Some lights feature a silent (non-clicking) insta-beam function in which slightly depressing the switch activates the light until either a full click leaves it on, or releasing the switch turns it off, without having to cycle through all modes. This is a desirable feature in law enforcement operations.

Materials and Shape

Most flashlight bodies are either plastic or aluminum alloy. Some feature stainless steel in the head of the flashlight for extra impact resistance. Not all aluminum bodies are the same—thinner styles are lighter, thicker ones are tougher.

Cylindrical bodies are the most common shape, but as these tend to roll around when laid on a surface, some models are profiled to resist rolling. Additionally, the surface of the body may have a knurled pattern to provide grip and reduce slipping.

Size and Weight

This is mostly personal preference. A larger, heavier unit is not necessarily brighter, but it is likely to feature an extended run time due to a greater battery capacity.

Accessories

Add-ons that may be included or sold separately include a lanyard, belt clip or holster, and lens filters and diffusers to provide lighting options.