

# Care of Fibreglass Poles

Fibreglass poles are a very economical way of providing structure to a tent when compared to aluminium poles, but they do require a little extra care, particularly when assembling and dismantling a tent.

Because minimising weight is a high priority for most Users, tent manufacturers will use the smallest diameter pole that gives adequate strength to the tent. This will always involve a compromise between strength, weight and cost, and the User should not expect poles to be 'bomb' proof, especially on a cheaper tent.

When over bent, fibreglass poles will suddenly split longitudinally, where as aluminium poles will tend to just distort (bend) before they too, will finally fail by cracking.

If when assembling a tent the force required to fit a pole feels excessive, please check:

1. The correct pole is being used
2. The pole and all its sections are fully inserted in their correct position
3. The tent is evenly stretched over the pole

If a fibreglass pole splits in the field, a temporary repair is to wrap the split pole together with any tape. Even 'sticky tape' will do the job.

Fibreglass poles are produced by pultrusion of fibreglass strands and resin, through a die. The process gives a very consistent product and it is unusual for any breakage or splitting to be caused by a manufacturing fault, of course it can happen, but in our experience, most pole failures are due to the application of excessive force.

Ansco sells a full range of spare poles sections and repair sleeves for Vango tents and recommends that Users consider what spares should be prudently taken on their adventures.