

## **ZIP TIPS**

*Having tent zipper 'sliders' replaced is one of the most common repairs for outdoor adventure equipment. Minimize the opportunities for those pesky mosquitoes to have a feast and avoid trips to the repair shop.*

### **SEPARATING ZIPPERS ??**

If the zipper's vinyl coils become dirty and gritty the coil will become rough and dry which will quickly wear out the inside edges of zipper slide or pull-tab. Once the slider or pull-tab is worn it will not squeeze the coils or teeth of the zipper closed and the zipper will separate when trying to close.

- ★ **A zipper's life can be extended dramatically by keeping it free of dirt and grit and lubricating it regularly.**

#### **Cleaning and Conditioning Zippers:**

First clean the zipper with a toothbrush that has been dipped in mild soap and water and then using the same method brush in a generous amount of vinyl lubricant (same products you use on the vinyl in your car - other than Armoral). Watch it magically disappear as it soaks in. Try not to get it on the surrounding material as it is oiled based and will darken or stain the material.

#### **When Out In The Field:**

If you find your zipper(s) separating try taking a pair of needle nose pliers and GENTLY squeezing the zipper slider together so it will apply a little more pressure on the zipper coils as it pulls them together. This is usually a temporary fix as the slider is likely already worn and will need replacing before you take your tent out on its next excursion. Carrying a set of pliers is often considered one of the essentials when out in the field. This method is recommended over using duct tape. The glue from tape causes damage to the zipper coils and surrounding fabric and often leads to an expensive zipper replacement - besides the fact that it is a REAL BEAR to clean off.

### **TIPS FOR HEALTHY ZIPPERS**

- ★ **Clean and Lubricate Regularly** - especially after a trip where they have been exposed to sand, clay and grit.
- ★ **Be Gentle** - If they are resisting don't force them - CHECK IT OUT.
  - a.) They may have something caught in them (i.e. zipper flap or kleenex). In which case unzip them up - as gently as possible, remove the obstruction and then try again.
  - b.) Sometimes they are just so dried out from being used and exposed to the elements (wind and UV rays) that a couple of lubrications will do them a world of good - often just like new.

**▼ Treat zippers like you care and they will care for you ▲**