
There are many ways to build and repair shelters and homes with tarps and similar materials. This instruction manual will provide a few guidelines for building as safely and securely as possible and to give you some ideas for construction techniques.

The biggest problems for tarp construction are wind and rain.

1. DO NOT face large tarp edges into the likely direction of wind
2. DO NOT put up tarps that are flat and can collapse because of rain water
3. DO NOT rely only upon the metal grommets for strength in medium to heavy wind

Try to follow a few rules for secure construction:

1. Secure the corners of tarps with a rock to get maximum strength
2. Tie down tarp edges in as many places as possible to resist wind
3. Position the low end of any tarp shelter toward likely wind, or better yet, build a vertical wall in the direction of the wind using one edge of a tarp or similar material
4. Try not to leave any edge of the tarp loose so that it can catch the wind and allow rainwater to collect, but do not tie tight enough to rip the tarp



Tarps are MOST secure if they are nailed or weighed down on flat surfaces. Tarps can also be very secure when rolled and nailed between two pieces of wood if available.

A simple structure can be built between two trees using a small amount of rope or cord. This type of shelter will provide good protection from sun and rain.



Tie a moving loop to secure a rock in the corner of the tarp. This is the strongest connection you can make to a tarp or similar material using rope or cord.



Melt the ends of any synthetic rope or cord to prevent frays.



Tarps can be secured between two pieces of wood to provide a strong edge. This can be done with straight poles or tree-branches. The tarp should be secured with nails.

Knots For Tying Out Tarps And Similar Materials



1. Tie a loop in the rope or cord about 0.5 meters from an anchor point.



2. Wrap the end of the rope around your anchor (a tent stake, tree, root, heavy block, etc) and bring the end of the rope up and through your loop



3. Pull the end of the rope back toward the anchor point, applying enough pressure to make it tight without pulling hard enough to rip the tarp or pull your anchor out. Now tie off the end of the rope to keep it from slipping.



4. Any knot inside the round metal grommet will work to secure an edge of a tarp. Grommets will break easily, so never pull too hard.