

TARPS & CAMPING

THREE TYPES OF TARP SHELTERS

1 Basic Tent

- 1 Run a line between two trees. Lay the tarp over the top of this line so that the two sides coming down to the ground are equal. If your tarp has lines attached to it use these instead of draping the tarp over a line stretched between trees.
- 2 Pull the sides of the tarp out so that the shelter looks like an inverted letter V. Stake or tie down the corners of the tarp. Make sure the fabric is taut, loose material will catch the rain and collapse in the wind.

2 Lean-To Shelter

- 1 Once again tie some line or the middle points of your tarp between two trees. When constructing this shelter, make sure that the wind or weather is blowing perpendicular to the middle line of the tarp.
- 2 Drape the tarp over the line. Draw back the two low edges so that they are tied down into the wind.
- 3 Tie both of the low edges of the tarp down securely. If the tarp has grommet holes stake it to the ground as well. If not, use smooth round rocks to secure the bottom edge of the tarp to the ground. Use smooth rocks so they don't tear a hole in your tarp.

3 Hot Weather Shelter

- 1 Start by digging a trench or finding a natural depression in the ground. The US army survival manual recommends the trench be at least 18 to 23 inches deep.
- 2 Cover the trench with your tarp. If you have a big enough piece of material double the tarp over so that there is a bit of an air space between the material, this will help the shelter stay cooler.
- 3 Use the material from digging the trench to weight down the tarp.

TARP TIPS



- ✗ Never tie two tarps together. This puts too much stress on the tarps during strong winds and storms. If one of the tarp's corners should come down, so will everything tied to that tarp.



- ✓ Poles are a benefit, especially in areas without strong trees. Try to put the tarps up without poles if possible, and then add the poles to enhance them.



- ✓ In cold, wet weather, angle the tarp with the low edge facing the wind. The wind will be forced over the campsite instead of through it, more importantly water can run off the tarp instead of collecting in a pool.



- ✓ In warm, dry weather, try to angle the tarp with the high edge facing the wind. This creates a sort of parachute, raising the tarps in strong wind.

PACKING FOR THE TRIP

ESSENTIALS:

- Cash/Credit cards
- Required License or Permits
- Matches
- Multi tool
- Toiletries
- Flash light and spare batteries
- Rain gear
- All necessary clothing plus extras (swimsuit, rain gear, socks, pants, shirts, etc.)

MORE ESSENTIALS:

- Tent
- Tarps
- Sleeping bags
- Food and water
- First aid kit

OTHER STUFF TO BRING:

- Sunscreen
- Folding chairs
- Hammer
- Bug spray
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Watch
- Radio

Sources:
http://www.ehow.com/how_6591079_use-tarp-sheltechtml#ixzz2MhG6zEbc
<http://www.angelfire.com/la3/camping/tarps.htm>
<http://www.basspro.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/CFPage?storeId=10151&catalogId=10001&mode=article&objectID=30250>

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