

Tent Anchoring Instructions

Tents erected on FIU property must be appropriately weighted down to avoid becoming a projectile under windy conditions. **Staking** the tent legs is insufficient and **not permitted** due to the risk posed to underground utilities.



There are many commercially available solutions, but the methods described below can be quickly and inexpensively constructed and are approved for use on campus.

Make Your Own Tent Weights

If you plan to make your own tent weights, there are a few solutions that people have used

Large Buckets with Concrete



Tent weights using a 3.5 gallon plastic bucket with an eye-bolt cemented in the center are easily constructed, transportable, reusable and long lasting. To assemble, mix sufficient concrete to fill the bucket to 6" below the top lip. Before the concrete sets insert the assembled eye-bolt (eye-bolt, washers and nut) in the center of the bucket and allow at least 24 hours of drying time before use. The space left above the concrete makes an ideal place to store the sections of rope you will use to tie the anchor to the tent cross members at the top of the legs.



White 3-1/2 Gallon Bucket

1/2 in. x 6 in. Zinc-Plated Eye Bolt with Nut (add 2 large washers)

SAKRETE/Quikrete (80 lb. Gray Concrete Mix)

3/16 in. x 100 ft. White Braided Nylon and Polypropylene Rope

PVC Pipe Weights

PVC pipes filled with concrete (or sometimes sand), are used by many professional craft artists.

To make your own PVC pipe tent weights you will need:

- PVC pipe (preferably white)
- Concrete such as Quikrete or Sakrete
- End caps
- Eye bolts



To make your own PVC pipe weights, simply fill a length of 3-4 inch PVC pipe with concrete (Sakrete is a popular brand and is available at many home building supply stores). Look for white PVC pipe, which will blend in with your white craft tent better than other colors.

The length and diameter of the pipe you choose will depend on how much you want the pipe to weigh. Although many people aim for 40 pounds of weight on each leg, you may want to create 8 pipes that weigh 20 pounds each (i.e. two weights for each leg) instead of 4 pipes that weigh 40 pounds because the 20 pound weights will be easier to manage. If you go to a home building supply store that provides good customer service, they will be able to help you do the math on the amount of concrete (and, therefore, the size of PVC pipe) you will need to create the amount of weight you want.

Secure end caps onto one end of each PVC tube. Mix the concrete according to directions, and pour into the PVC pipes.

After you pour the mixed concrete in the pipe, and before it sets, insert a ring bolt into each weight, which will allow you to hang the weights from the corners of your tent. Many people use bungee cords to hang their weights. I have used these for hanging weights myself and find them quite useful, although you do need to ensure they are secured well.

In addition to hanging the weights from the top corners of your tent, you can also secure them to the legs with some white Velcro wrapped around the pipe and the leg to prevent the weights from swinging around.

Large Buckets



If you are **filling buckets with water**, you'll need 5 gallons of water for 40 pounds of weight. If you are **filling buckets with sand**, you'll need about 3.2 gallons of sand to create a 40 pound weight.

One benefit of filling large buckets with water or sand is that, if you know you will have access to water or sand at the show, you can fill them up at the location and avoid carrying a lot of extra weight. However, you will not have access to water or sand at every show, and filling your weight buckets at the show will add one more step to your set up process.

A few craft artists like to bring along a few large buckets to use as additional back up weights on particularly windy days. They may use store bought weights, or another homemade system as their primary tent weights, and they simply add water or sand filled buckets to the system on days when they feel they need a little extra weight.

Question, concerns or consultation regarding anchoring your tent should be directed to:

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University Safety Officer

Environmental Health & Safety

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See more at:

<http://www.inspiri-art-and-craft.com/tent-weights.html#sthash.qYdncNDp.dpuf>
<http://thenewnew.blogspot.com/2009/03/how-to-pvc-tent-weights.html>