

## **Making Tent Weights/ Anchors**

Some ideas to keep your tents weighted down:

- Purchase tent weights or anchors (although Ace, Big R, and Wal-mart do not carry them)
- Free weights or hand weights
- Cinder blocks
- Milk jugs full of gravel or sand
- Paving stones
- Concrete, long eye hook and 5 or 3 gallon pickle buckets (or icing bucket)
- Or build weights with the enclosed instructions
- Weights can also be purchased from the Farmers' Market if ordered prior to the Market season (\$25 for a pair and \$50 for a full set of four).

### **Tent Weight DIY**

Here's the materials list and prices for the tent weights as I constructed them (all materials from Ace Hardware):

4 2-gal buckets @ \$4.49 = \$17.96  
4 lids for above buckets @ \$2.29 = \$9.16  
4 3/8" x 6" eyebolts (each eyebolt comes with one nut) @ \$1.49 = \$5.96  
8 3/8" nuts @ \$0.10 = \$0.80  
8 3/8" flat washers @ \$0.12 = \$0.96  
2.5 60 lb sacks of Quikrete @ \$5.49 = \$13.73  
Total cost = \$48.57

The cost could be trimmed by not using a lid, but instead substituting 3/8" x 8" eyebolt (these are \$1.79) for the 6" eyebolt and being careful to place the bolt into the concrete, centered and as vertical as possible. I would probably put one nut about one inch up the eyebolt, then put a washer on, and thread another nut tight against the first one, to give the bolt a bit more surface area for the concrete to set against.

Here's the construction instructions for how I made the weights:

1. Drill a 3/8" hole in the center of each bucket lid. Thread a 3/8" nut onto each eyebolt as far up as the threads go. Place a 3/8" washer against the nut, then put the eyebolt through the hole in the lid. Put another washer on the bottom side of the lid, then tighten another nut on the eyebolt. Thread one more nut on the bolt so it extends just a bit past the end of the bolt. From the eye, then, this is the sequence: nut, washer, plastic lid, washer, nut, one last nut.
2. Drill 4 1/4" holes in each lid, about halfway between the center and the rim, in a symmetric arrangement (left, right, top, bottom). These will allow ventilation and better curing of the concrete.
3. Mix the concrete until you have the proper consistency - not too dry, not too wet. I did this in a wheelbarrow, using a hoe for the mixing implement.
4. Shovel the concrete into the 2 gal buckets, one shovelful at a time, dropping the bucket on the ground and moving it back and forth, to eliminate air pockets. Fill the buckets nearly to the top.
5. Put the lids on the buckets and seal by tapping with a rubber mallet. If water comes up out of the holes, just use an old rag to absorb the water.
6. Allow the concrete to cure for a couple of days.

The same procedure could be followed without using lids, except that you'd just place the 3/8" x 8" eyebolt (with nuts and washer as described above) directly in the concrete. You might have to suspend the eyebolt above the concrete by running a large dowel or other stick through the eye and completely across the lip of the bucket to ensure the bolt doesn't sink too low into the concrete (especially if the concrete is a little too runny).