

2023 Ravinia Farmers Market Tent Weights and Guidelines

PROPERLY ANCHOR YOUR MARKET TENT

Tent weights are essential for outdoor events, and a small gust of wind can send a tent sailing aloft, even more when using sidewalls. Appropriate and securely attached weights will help to ensure your tent does not take flight and damage your inventory, the property of others, or cause physical injury to someone. Incorrectly weighted tents can cause all kinds of problems and expensive damage. Strong gusts can come up without warning anywhere, at any time.

REMEMBER:

- Tent weights must be attached at all times! Bungee cords and Gorilla Tape work great!
- Completely secure your tent as soon as you set it up
 - o If using multiple tents, secure tents to each other as well
- Collapse your tent as soon as you remove its weights
 - DO NOT INTERRUPT this process as an incident can happen in seconds
- Even adequately secured tents can be precarious during inclement weather conditions
 - o “Pop-the-buttons” – alleviating the canvas tension, this can reduce problems
 - o “Lower-the-legs” – reducing the tent height can reduce problems
 - o “Remove the sail” – remove the canvas
- Weights should be secured in a manner that does not create additional safety hazards.
- Weights should not cause a tripping hazard
- Weights should be tethered with clearly visible rubber bungee cords or ropes
- Weights should have soft edges to avoid causing cuts, scrapes, and tripping
- Weights should be suspended from the top corners to reduce the center of gravity or secured around each leg's base with a rubber bungee cord or rope.

MINIMUM SIZE

25 to 40 pounds per leg for a tent 10' x 10' ft., the more weight, the better. If you are filling buckets with water, you'll need 5 gallons, with sand, you'll need about 3.2 gallons to create 40-pound weights. A tent 10' x 20' ft. and larger should be secured with 50 pounds on each leg.

HOW TO SECURE WEIGHTS

Weights must be secured to the tent roof and the leg separately with the following methods:

- Nylon ratchet straps or rubber bungee straps (The best bungee cords are the black rubber ones; use the ones with two ridges on one side and are square on the other since these are much stronger and last longer than the cheaper oval ones.)
- High-quality, heavy-duty rope

COMMERCIAL TENT WEIGHTS



Pop-Up Tent Weights

PROS: Holds 40 pounds of sand, velcro straps, handles to carry CONS:

Cheap ones are flimsy, plastic zippers, don't last long

SUGGESTED: Apex® Tent Weights (<https://www.sandbagstore.com/canopy-sandbags.html>)



Soccer Goal Weight Bag

PROS: Holds 40 pounds of sand, heavy-duty, handle, metal zipper CONS:

No Velcro straps, expensive but worth it

SUGGESTED: Anthem Sports (<https://www.anthem-sports.com/>)

HOMEMADE PVC WEIGHTS (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5L3WYa8up8>),
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-6RFWhqo8E&feature=emb_rel_end)

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS: You'll need PVC pipe – 4" or 6", PVC end caps, PVC cleaner, glue, concrete mix, eye bolts, carrying handles, spray paint, etc., sufficient to make eight 20 pound weights or four 40-pound weights. Fill lengths of PVC pipe with concrete. The length and diameter of the pipe you choose will depend on how much you want the pipe to weigh. (Plan for four 40 pound weights per leg or eight 20 pound weights, two weights per leg, for easier management.) A home building supply store with good customer service will help you do the math on the amount of concrete and 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.



INSUFFICIENT TENT WEIGHTS

- Gallon water jugs only weigh 8 pounds each
- Concrete blocks, bricks, rocks, etc. - do not weigh enough
- Dumbbells, weightlifting plates, etc. – tripping hazards
- Stakes in the ground are rarely adequate unless professionally secured
- Ice Coolers, tied to tables, ties to merchandise, etc.

