

Farmers Market Tent Weights

Introduction: Tent weights are to secure the tent during windy days to protect the safety of customers, vendors and staff. The recommended weight is 45 pounds per leg (but this can become very heavy, so plan your weights accordingly). Under normal conditions the weights are secured to the tent legs with Velcro straps for easy installation. As an added precaution there is an eyebolt set in the weight that allows a heavy bungee cord or rope to secure the tent's top frame to the weight.

Materials List:

Ten feet of four inch PVC pipe (4 – 30 inch weights at 34-38#)

Three 60# bags Quick Crete Concrete Mix or two 80# bags.

Sixteen feet 1 ½ inch Velcro One Wrap Strap (20-24 inch per strap/ two per weight)

Eight - 1-inch pan head screw

Eight - 3/8 x 1 ¼ fender washer

Four - 5 ¾ inch door pull w/screws

Four - 1/4 x 5 inch eyebolt

Four - ¼ x 1 ¼ fender washer

Eight-¼ inch nut

Tool List:

Drill and pilot bit

Hack saw or power miter saw

Screwdriver

Tape measure

Scissors

Concrete tamping rod

Putty knife

Instructions:

1. Cut the PVC pipe to length, keeping the cuts square. Each completed weight weighs about 1.2 pounds per inch so adjust length to desired weight. Actual weight will vary between individual weights.
2. Mark for holes on pipe for Velcro and door pull in a straight line. Set Velcro holes 1 ½ inch from top and 3 inches from bottom. Center the door pull on pipe then move up ½ inch to mark holes (easier to carry) and mark only the holes on one side. Pre-drill Velcro holes and the two door pull holes (drill the other two holes after the door pull has been mounted).
3. Bend washers and door pull using a shop vise and a hammer to better fit the curve of the PVC pipe (improves contact and eliminates exposed edges.).
4. Cut Velcro to length, depending on tent legs, 20-24 inches is adequate.
5. Mount Velcro with loops (fuzzy side) down to reduce the Velcro from grabbing or sticking to everything. DO NOT over tighten the screws, as the PVC will strip out easily. Use one screw and one washer per strap with the screw centered (width and length) on strap.

6. Mount the door pull (DO NOT over tighten) in the two pre-drilled hole using the screws provided. Drill the other two holes and set the screws. By installing the screws before adding the concrete the screws are easy to remove for future repairs.
7. Construct the eyebolt assembly by placing the fender washer between the two nuts on the end of the eyebolt and tighten nuts.
8. Duct tape the bottom end of the PVC pipe to contain the concrete. Mix the concrete according to instructions, keeping the mix on the stiff or dry side. Using a garden trowel, pour the concrete into the pipe, tamping occasionally to remove air bubbles. As the pipe is filled set the eye bolt assembly in position at the top and continue to add concrete. Set the eyebolt at desired height, tamping around the edge to secure. Finish the surface concrete with a putty knife, sprinkle lightly with water for a smooth finish.
9. Set the weights upright to cure (2 days) and then clean the weights with soap and water.

A set of four weights as listed costs around seventy dollars and takes six to eight hours to complete.

Instructions written by:

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Larimer County Extension

Larimer County Farmers' Market

Colorado Master Gardeners