



APPROVED TENT WEIGHTS TO ANCHOR YOUR CRAFT CANOPY

Tent weights are absolutely essential for outdoor craft shows. If you don't want to worry about your tent taking flight in a bit of wind, you must properly secure it. It is surprising how easily just a small amount of wind can send a craft tent sailing across the street, particularly when you put up one or more of the side walls. A securely weighted tent will ensure your tent does not take off and damage your inventory or the inventory of craft artists near you or injure someone at the show.

ACCEPTABLE TYPES OF TENT WEIGHTS (Minimum of 40 pounds per leg)

SUSPENDED VS. SECURED TO BASE OF LEG

Canopy weights are either suspended from the top corners of your outdoor canopy or secured to the base of each leg. It is very important to secure the weights around each leg with a bungee cord or rope so that it will never be able to swing like a pendulum.

HOMEMADE VS. STORE BOUGHT

Plenty of professional craft artists use their own homemade systems for weighting tents. Homemade canopy weights are typically slightly less expensive than store bought weights, and they can be custom made to specifically meet your particular needs. Store bought weights, on the other hand, are extremely convenient, and they are typically not that much more expensive to buy when compared with the cost of making your own tent weights.

Weighting your tent correctly is extremely important because an incorrectly weighted tent can cause all kinds of problems and expensive damage. Below, are examples of both homemade and store bought tent weight options so you can determine for yourself which types of weights are best for you.

BUY TENT WEIGHTS

If you plan to buy your tent weights, there are a few types of weights on the market and features to consider and compare. Store bought weights can be purchased in a myriad of types; that you suspend from the top corners of your craft tent; weights that you secure to the base of each tent leg; fillable weights which may be emptied and filled with sand and/or water; weights that consist of cement plates, which are secured to the base of your tent leg and require no filling. **Companies that produce these types of weights include:** Caravan (www.caravancanopy.com), EZ Up (www.ezup.com) and King Canopy (www.kingcanopy.com), which allow you to stay within one family of products for your craft tent related supplies.

MAKE YOUR OWN TENT WEIGHTS

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

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:

1. PVC pipe (preferably white)
2. Concrete such as Quikrete
3. End caps
4. Eye bolts

To make your own PVC pipe weights, simply fill a length of 3-4 inch PVC pipe with concrete (Quikrete 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, especially around the base of each leg so as not to allow the PVC tube to ever swing like a pendulum.

HOW TO SECURE WEIGHTS

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

- Nylon ratchet straps or tight bungee straps
- High quality rope – light-duty cord is not allowed.
- Factory-supplied pins (weight bags come with these). Note: Rubber straps are not allowed!

APPROVED TENT WEIGHTS / 40 POUNDS PER LEG



Cement Filled



Water Weights



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**.

4 per leg, at 10 pounds each



NOT APPROVED TENT WEIGHTS



- One gallon water jugs weighing 8 pounds each are far short of the required 40 lbs. per leg.
- Larger water jugs that do not have handles molded as part of the body.
- Concrete blocks – cannot be secured adequately to canopy legs and do not weigh enough.
- Coolers, bags of ice, water jugs from which water or product is removed.

- Loose weightlifting plates – cannot be secured to legs properly.
- Dumbbells – cannot be secured properly to canopy legs.
- Merchandise Racks – do not weigh enough when product is removed.
- Stakes in the ground.

Canopy Safety 101: Your Guide to Canopy Safety

Most accidents at Arts Festivals involve wind blown tents, canopies and umbrellas. All artists are required to minimize the risk caused by canopies by following rules for canopy safety.

- Canopy weights must be attached to vendor canopies at all times.
- In certain inclement weather conditions even properly secured canopies can be precarious.
- If canopies need to be taken down in the middle of the festival due to inclement weather, vendors should direct customers to move out of the way so they are not injured.
- Weights should be secured in a manner that does not create its own safety hazard. Weights should not cause a tripping hazard and should be tethered with lines that are clearly visible.
- Weights should have soft edges to avoid causing cuts and scrapes, all weights must be securely attached and weights should be on the ground, or midway to the canopy leg (NOT above people's heads)

Always be prepared

It is not enough to have the tools necessary to secure your canopy on hand if you do not employ them. Strong gusts can come up without warning anywhere, at any time. After your canopy takes flight and causes damage it is too late to decide to secure your canopy. You should assume winds will come. Indeed, they often do.

Always secure canopies. During setup and breakdown periods canopies are vulnerable to wind. Stay alert.

During the peak business hours of markets, the mere presence of hundreds of shoppers, along with the tight configuration of all the vendors, creates a disruption in the flow of wind, reducing its force through the festival area. But at setup and breakdown times, the shoppers are gone, the solid block of vendors is disrupted, and you are at some point in the process of setting up or taking down your canopy. You must be sure to completely secure your canopy as soon as you set it up, and take down your canopy as soon as you remove its weights at the end of the day. Do NOT let yourself be interrupted by ANYTHING in the middle of this process, as a half-secured canopy is as dangerous, if not more dangerous, than an unsecured canopy.