

THE AWNINGS MANUAL

The ark comes with two awnings, or 'tarps', both for shade and rain. Installing them is a 2-person job. **Do NOT put the tarps up in heavy winds or rain:** you may be pulled off the roof!!



THE SIDE TARP is 5.5 x 3.6 m. with D-ring eye-lets.

There are fixed anchor points on top of the container for that specific size tarp and it can be fitted either side of the container. The tarp is a silver and black tarpaulin from Bunnings (item I/N: 3330096). Although it is called 'Ultra Heavy Duty', it cannot be used in heavy winds or storms. Smaller components of this set-up can be found in one of the crates while the poles are found secured to the back right corner of the ark (together with some other long items).

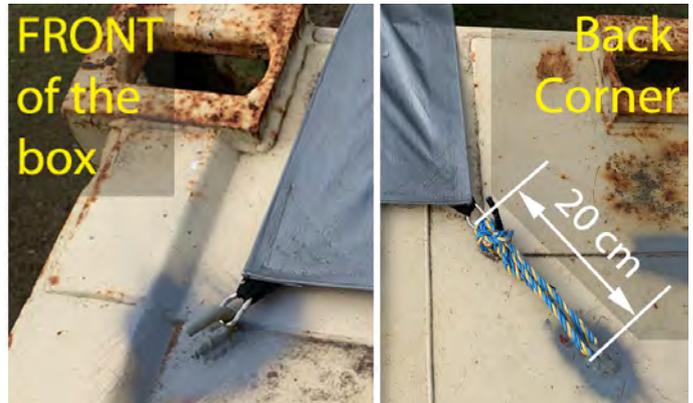
Start with placing the ladder at the front or back, hard up against a corner block and tie it off (see the ladder section in the general manual !!) Then take the crate outside and unpack.



Take the steel cable (with sling and shackles) onto the roof and undo. Pay attention to how it was rolled up, so as to store it the same way. Attach either end of the cable to the front and back corners, **opposite** of the side you are having the tarp.



Come back on the ground to unroll the trap, on the side of the container you want it. Keep its silver side up and the side with the attached ropes pointing to the container. Climb on the roof again and have the front corner handed up to you. Hook its D-ring over the open steel hook that is close to the front corner. Then go to the back corner, have the other corner of the tarp handed to you and feed the rope attached to that corner, through the welded eye on the roof and make a loop and knot of about 20 cm long, with a 45° angle. Note, to have the tarp to the right side of the container, you need to swap that little rope attached to the other corner.



Now tie the remaining ropes attached to the tarp in that long side, to the cable you had laid out earlier, aiming for a straight line between the tarp corners. (See the drawing below for reference.) Tie around the cable grips on the cable to prevent the guy-ropes to slide to the middle. Tighten lightly just for now, you will need to come back to these later.

Come off the roof, the tarp should now be hanging as shown adjacent.

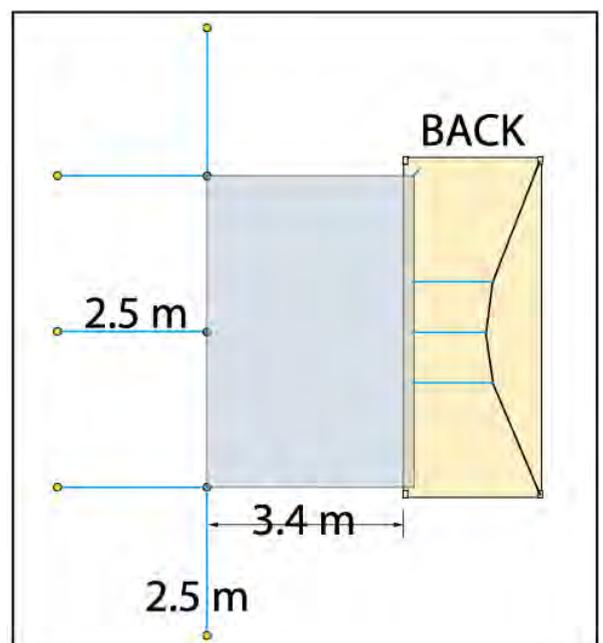
The tarp needs 3 tent poles to hold up the remaining long side of the tarp. The two corner poles need 2 guy wires and the one in the middle needs 1. The easiest way to continue though, is to mark out the peg positions and to already drive them in the ground, before attaching the poles and guy-wires.



Marking out the pole position. With a person at each corner, feed the pole tips through the corner rings and stand the poles upright. While holding the poles upright, you both walk away from each other as well as the container, until the tarp is tight. Mark the pole position on the ground. Don't worry about the middle pole for now.

Now examine the plan-view diagram adjacent; it has the container in yellow, the cable on top in black, the tarp in grey, and all the guywires in blue. From the corner pole points you have just marked-out, mark out a point 2.5 m away from that, parallel to the front of the container. Mark the 2nd point, also 2.5 m away from the corner pole but now parallel to the side of the container. To mark-out you simply lay down a peg at each mark with the point of the peg on that mark.

Then drive all those pegs into the ground, with the peg leaning back about 20° and with the holes pointing towards the corner poles (not the container!). Never hammer them in fully but always leave about 8 cm sticking out of the ground and with one of the holes still

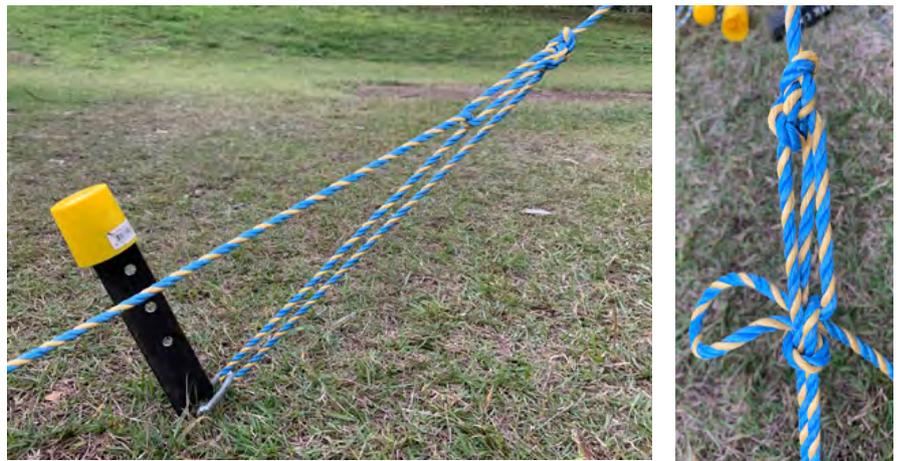


just above ground. To avoid damaging the pegs, always use the pink coloured cap over the peg to drive them in (see the image with content of the crate).

If the ground is really firm they do not need to go in deep. If rain is expected then they need to go in deeper. Finish the peg off with a yellow cap. Conclude the preparation by attaching a shackle to the hole just above the ground and laying a rope next to each peg, un-rolled.

Install the corner poles. Grab the pole again and feed the tip of the pole through a corner D-ring. Then slip the loop at the end each guy-rope over the tip, on top of the D-ring. Stand the pole up and pull at the top till the tarp is stretched. Hold it there while the other person finishes the guy-line to the peg. You can have the pole slightly angled and pointing away from the container, making it easier to keep the tension on the tarp.

Apart from a loop knot at one end of each guy-rope, they also have a loop somewhere in the middle of the rope. Feed the end of the rope through the shackle on the peg, bring it back and feed through the loop in the rope and pull tight. Finish it off with a slipknot. We will get back to this knot later after we have all ropes fitted and need to check the tension of all ropes.



When both corner poles and both of their guy-ropes are in place, add the middle pole. It will be standing on the middle of the line in between the two corner poles. Its peg is also 2.5 m. away from that point. Fix the guy-rope as before.

Now that all ropes are attached, you need to fine-tune the tension in the ropes. Some may be too loose and some too tight, both on the ground and on top of the container. All should be nice and tight and creases taken out of the tarp. Please do not overdo the tightening. Do the same as before but now finish and secure the knot by making a Half-hitch with the loop of the Slip-knot. (all knots can be found on the net)

A few more points.

- If it is sunny, standing all the poles vertical gives you the most space underneath the tarp.
- If however it is raining or it might rain overnight then you need to stand the middle pole under an angle, to make that middle point of the tarp the lowest to drain the water.
- If still water is pooling in the tarp, you can hang weights off the remaining d-rings, using a rope and a tree branch for instance.
- In case of heavy winds you can choose to take the tarp down or you can add similar weights



now also hanging off the middle side d-rings.

- If the wind suddenly intensifies then it may be to late to safely take the tarp down. Then just stand upwind and let the tarp be destroyed. They are not very expensive and easily replaced at Bunnings.

THE FRONT AWNING OVER THE DOOR. is 2.4 x 2 m. with plastic welded eye-lets

This awning prevents rain to enter the container, and allows for a drier spot directly in front. A doormat or piece of carpet (not included) will stay relatively dry and feet can be wiped before entering.

If the container was directly pointing into the sun, then the tarp also prevents heat build up on the floor at the entrance.

This tarp is also from Bunnings but is actually stronger and can withstand stronger winds.

The tarp, brackets and cable ties can be found in a crate and the poles are standing upright and tied into the right back corner. They are marked 'front awning'. Take the crate, poles and ladder outside.

This install requires multiples ladder movements. It is the users responsibility to find a convenient position for each stage of the install and make sure it is stable both through chocks and a helper.

1. Fit the brackets to the two front corners of the container.

The brackets have 4 parts each: a steel plate with welded square tube, a steel U-channel and 2 winged bolts. The brackets are normally stored as an assembly. The tube is welded to the plate at an angle. Have the highest end pointing forward. There is a strip welded to the bottom of the plate, which needs to sit against the side of the corner blocks. The front of the plate is flush with the front of the corners



2. (See image on next page.) Now insert the U-channel fully through the side hole of the corner with the bolthole pointing up. With your hand entering through the front of the corner, hold the U-channel up and positioned, with its bolthole directly under the middle hole of the plate. (The other holes have no function.) Tighten with the winged bolts.



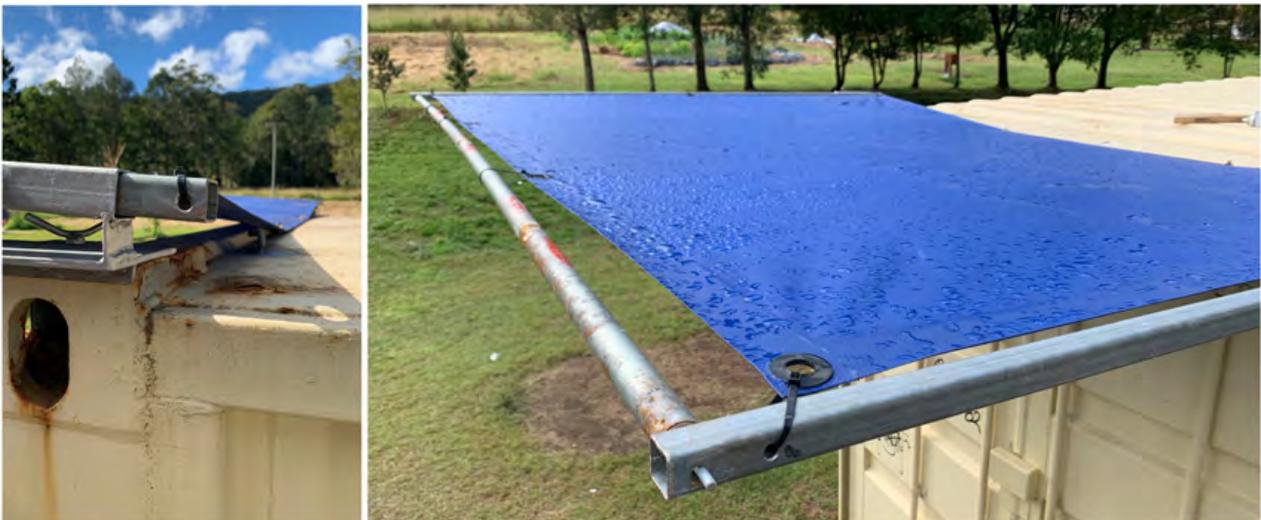
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3. Once the bracket is secure, unscrew the bolt in the tube and insert either of the square steel poles from the front. Insert the end with a single hole until the little welded stopper hits the tube and faces upwards (see both yellow arrows). Then tighten. Insert and fix the 2nd square pole.
 4. Then grab the round pole with a pin at both ends and adjustable length. Place the ladder under the end of one of the square poles, climb and have the pole handed to you. Then aim and insert the pin of the longest end through the outer hole of the opposite square pole. Pull the short end of the pole out while inserting its pin in the outer hole of the pole above you. Tighten the black winged bolt with all of the white painted section visible.



5. Take hold of one of the tarpaulin corners and hold it next to the hole in the square pole over either corner of the container (see yellow arrow above). The long side of the tarp needs to end up over the container and the short sides along the poles. Fix the corner with a cable tie, leaving 1.5 cm between the tarp's edge and the pole. The cable ties are supplied.

6. The two eye-lets on the long side of the tarp must now be hooked over the two bolts welded along the front edge of the roof. They should already have a big washer and wing-nut fitted on them, or else they are in the little toolbox. (You may need pliers to undo them). Lock the eye-lets in place with the washer and wing-nut.
7. Then fix the next corner eye to the pole of the other container corner. You can pull this one tight. You will again have about 1.5 cm space between tarp edge and steel. Your tarp should now be hanging over the entrance of the container as seen above.

8. You can now finish the tarp: 1. Connect the other two corners, 2. Then the two eye-lets in the sides and 3. The two eye-lets to the front bar. You can now go around all cable-ties again and tighten those that need it. The tarp should end up being nicely taught.
9. Rainwater is running off the tarp beyond the container's front edge. The front edge is higher than the rest of the roof and water is thrown off to the sides of rather than over the doors.



Lastly. To prevent it raining in from the sides, the doors must not be opened beyond the edge of the tarp. In this position however the doors are vulnerable for winds and need to be limited. Again a short star picket peg is used for this. Mark out the spot by opening the door till it is within the edge of the tarp, and holding the peg against the outer locking bar, as per image. Drive the peg in with the door out of the way and then tie the bottom of the locking bar to it. Make sure to mark the peg well when the doors are closed for a lunch break or overnight.



===== END OF THE TARPULIN MANUAL =====