

Tarp Roof Covering (In Preparation)

Please see how to videos online for further clarification

Regardless of which covering will be installed on your building, the success or failure of the job, and your safety, will often be determined by the preparation and understanding of the task ahead.

The following is a checklist BEFORE you actually rolling out your cover.

- ✓ The top edge of your *ridge* should have been checked for roughness when you were installing it. Make sure these have been filed down.
- ✓ If your building is longer than 12' the *ridge* will have one (or more) *connectors*. These should be wrapped with duct tape.
- ✓ If your *wirelock channel* was not installed continuously over the crest, this edge should also be covered with duct tape.
- ✓ If your building includes *roll-up side walls*, the mechanism for securing the cover at the top of the *roll up* should be complete before proceeding. (It can be done later, but is significantly more complicated).
- ✓ You will require a ladder (or other elevating device) for comfortably reaching the peak at BOTH ends of your building as well as 2 thin ropes that are a minimum length of $\frac{3}{4}$ of your cover width (to assist in pulling the cover over).
- ✓ Your covering fasteners for the sides should be distributed along the sides (tucked against the building so as not to get in the way). If you are using spruce strapping, it saves time if you put all the screws in first. **Pre-drilling, as well as setting screws and washers will save the wood from splitting.**
- ✓ Walk along the side of the building where you will unroll your cover. **Check for and eliminate sharp objects** (broken off weeds are especially bad). If an object can't be removed, the edges should be covered. If there is absolutely NO room to roll out the covering along the building, give us a call to discuss "Plan B".
- ✓ Four (or more) people to install the cover are advisable if you have never done this before. It can be done with 2 or 3 but remember, the **slower the job goes the more chance there is of the wind picking up**. A couple extra people during the initial pulling over and squaring is helpful. These extra people can leave once the cover is tacked in place.
- ✓ The effect of wind, even a breeze, will be magnified by the size of your cover. **You will be looking at this cover for a long time, wait an extra day if necessary.** Early morning or late evening is usually best time of day.
- ✓ **If your ends are to be covered with tarp you MUST do the ends before the roof.** If your ends are covered with anything else, at least the framing should be done before doing the roof. It is easier to have the ends covered first but sometimes perfect roof covering days are scarce and should not be passed up.
- ✓ If you have a relatively short building, spending the time to mark the centre of your *tarp* (for the width) will make it considerably easier to get the cover on square and straight. Do this at both ends



PLEASE NOTE: Any italicized words in this document are words that are listed in the glossary.

Tarp Roof Covering

Please see how to videos online for further clarification

It is **CRITICAL** that you pull and tighten your cover lengthwise **BEFORE** doing the sides!

You are now ready to transform your sturdy shell into a functional shelter. Please see our website for additional pointers.

- ✓ ROLL your cover along the side of the building. **Do not drag** along ground as cover may snag on something.
- ✓ For most, determining the length and width is straight forward, but if your parts list shows a roof covering close to square, **verify that the way you have it rolled out is a minimum of 1' longer than your building.**
- ✓ Determine the leading edge corners of your cover. Grab the corner, making about a 12" "tail". Wrap a rope TWICE around the tail, making a simple tight knot. Take the opposite end of each rope and go to the top of the ladders that you've leaned against the peak of the building.
- ✓ Technically there is no inside or outside, but if you pay attention to pulling the tarp over in a way that the side that is touching the dirt is on the outside, the rain will wash away any dirt.
- ✓ **ALWAYS pull the cover to the peak BEFORE the person on the ground continues pulling.** Until the whole cover has crossed the *ridge*, pull back and forth, lengthwise, in sort of a "sawing" motion. Long covers will require someone helping it along half way down the side.
- ✓ Continue to feed the cover over until it is centered on the building. Precision to the inch is not necessary. Judging straightness is simply a matter of eyeing a fold to one of the *purlins*.
- ✓ Install 12" of *wire insert* at **each side of the ridge**, unless you are positive you will not have to adjust it. Put in the rest when any adjustments are made. **Don't allow more than 6" of overhang on the cover.**
- ✓ Go to the opposite end and pull the cover as tight as you can lengthwise. For pulling tight, **do not use anything more than human power on the cover wrapped on a short piece of 1x2 strapping.** Having many people pulling on a hot summer day can create a problem of the cover being too tight.
- ✓ Install a piece of your cover fastener (*wirelock*) half way down each side of the baseboard. Look along a crease to make sure it is straight. If your building has *roll-ups*, "doing the side" refers to the top of the *roll-up*.
- ✓ Usually the ends of the cover have been cut squarely. **Before proceeding, verify that you have enough material for all four corners.** Make adjustments needed.
- ✓ Work from the centre to the ends, working the two sides simultaneously. As you approach the end you may need to pull lengthwise as well as down. If the wind starts picking up, work into the wind or upwind first. **If a wrinkle develops, always pull at 90 degrees to the mid point of the wrinkle.**
- ✓ Excess roof cover can be trimmed to 2-3 inches once **you are certain it is extra and has had a chance to settle.** If you are putting the tarp on in cold weather, you will likely have to tighten the cover once you are into warm weather.



PLEASE NOTE: Any italicized words in this document are words that are listed in the glossary.