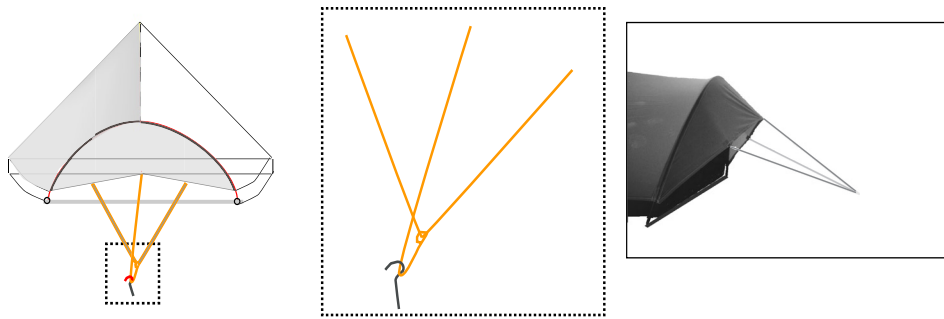


## Tarptent Setup for Virga/Squall/Rainshadow

Setup is very easy. It will take under 2 minutes once you get the hang of it.

1. Assemble shock-corded rear (semi-curved) and front (straight) poles. Try to rotate rear pole sections so that they form a linear curve rather than a helix. If you're using an adjustable trekking pole, front pole height is 42" (48" on Rainshadow)—up to about 47"—and the pole tip goes into the grommet.
2. Thread the rear pole into the rear sleeve—sleeve opens where webbing goes into tent body—and insert into a corner grommet. Pull the strap to slide the sleeve across the pole and insert pole end into the remaining grommet.
3. Stake the rear tri-pullout to a single stake (as shown below).
4. Lay the tent out. Insert the straight pole into the front grommet. Pull the ridgeline taut while staking the front apex pullout line to the ground. The pole should now stand up on its own (with front corners hanging down). The rear arc should be perpendicular to the ridgeline and **tilted back about 12 degrees** from vertical.



5. High tension along the ridge will provide a taut setup. At this point you will need to walk around the back and lift/wiggle the placement of the rear arch to get even tension on both sides.
6. Now pull each front corner out firmly at an angle and stake to the ground. It helps to hold the front pole as you're staking the forward pullouts so that you keep the front pole vertical and minimize overtightening the corners. The tent is designed to have 8-9" high front corners—lower as needed in wet weather—with a taut zippered door so position the front pullouts accordingly. Readjust front corner pullouts as needed to even the tension.
7. Side loops are provided. Use them in a strong side wind/rain or to slightly increase the interior space. Too much tension will pull the ridgeline down.
8. On floorless models, lock the netting to the ground by placing rocks or gear into the interior netting corners and along the sides as necessary.
9. For sewn-in floor, pull and re-knot shockcord at floor junction to stretch and center fabric.
10. For Tyvek groundsheet, a washing machine (cold water) will soften fabric.

## Seam-sealing

Stress-point seams must be sealed with a **silicone**-based sealer. An inexpensive product that works well is GE Silicone II clear sealer, available at most hardware stores in a \$3 squeeze tube. In a well-ventilated location, squirt about a **tablespoon** into a tuna can and mix it about two tablespoons mineral spirits (paint thinner) or Coleman fuel/white gas. The silicone will dissolve and form a semi-viscous solution. Paint the solution on with a small foam brush for easy, smooth application. Add more mineral spirits and stir if the solution gets too thick. Set up the tent and seal the seams at the pullouts and along the rear arch to protect the stitching (especially at the sleeve entrance seams). For Tarptents with sewn-in flooring, it's a good idea to paint lines of silicone on the floor—slightly thicker mixture than for the roof—to form an anti-skid mat.

## Sag and Condensation

In high humidity it helps to keep the netting open if at all possible. If it's raining and you really need the beak (because the rain is coming from the front), then see if you can get by with the netting open. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, try to camp where you get a breeze. Ventilation is all about airflow and if the wind isn't your friend then the lack of it is your enemy.

Nylon stretches (and sags) when the humidity goes up. This happens as night is falling and/or when it starts to rain. The best thing to do is to restake the front pullouts to retension the material. It will take you 30 seconds but once it's done the fabric will stay taut until you take the tent down.

## Key points to consider

- The front pole is thin and will sink into loose soil. Place a flat rock (or sheet aluminum/plastic) under the pole to spread the load. A trekking pole has a wider base (handle area) and will not sink.
- Push, rather than pull, the rear pole through the sleeve to prevent separation.
- The tent is made of strong, lightweight, and flammable fabric. Treat it accordingly. It will resist much stress but neither flame nor abrasion.

Thank you for your purchase and I sincerely hope that you enjoy your Tarptent. Feedback is always welcome.

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