Tarptent Setup for Rainshadow 2

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

1. Assemble shock-corded rear arch pole. For the front pole(s), standard pole height is 48” (122 cm) but can be set higher or lower as desired.
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 tip into the remaining grommet.
   **Note:** arch sleeve may appear sewn shut—it is not.
3. Stake the rear tri-pullout to a single stake. Be sure that you loop the center line around the stake (as shown) in order to properly tension all 3 lines.
4. Pull the body fabric in the direction you want to orient the shelter. It’s best to orient the low, arched end into the wind if possible.
5. Now insert the front pole into the front center grommet (halfway along the front strut). Pull the ridgeline taut while staking the v-shaped, strut 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.
6. 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.
7. Now pull each front corner guyline out firmly and stake to the ground. It helps to hold the front pole and strut while you’re staking 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. Properly staked, the front corner guylines should be angled away from the body as shown so as to tension both the leading edges and long sidewalls.
8. Line tighteners (pull cord end to tighten; lift lever to loosen) adjust tension for the canopy and bathtub floor. Tension the canopy first, then tension the floor as necessary.
9. 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.
10. For Tyvek groundsheet, an agitating washing machine (cold water) will soften fabric.
Optional Setup with Two Trekking Poles
1. Follow the directions on the previous page for basic setup.
2. Insert poles into the grommets on both ends of the front strut with pole handles together in a “V” configuration. Once the tent is set up and taut, rotate the handles outward to provide easy access (as shown).

Orient both poles vertically for best wind performance.

Seam-sealing
Stress-point seams must be sealed with a silicone-based sealer. A 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 with 2-3 tablespoons of 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 and stir in more mineral spirits if the solution gets too thick. Set up the tent and seal the seams at the pullouts, ridgelines, and along the rear arch to protect the stitching (especially at the sleeve entrance seams). It’s a good idea to paint lines of silicone on the floor and/or your pad—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. Camp under a tree rather than out in the open on a cold, clear night. 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. Restake the front pullouts to retension the material and/or lift the height of the front pole. 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.

Thanks for your purchase and we sincerely hope that you enjoy your Tarptent. Feedback is always welcome.

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