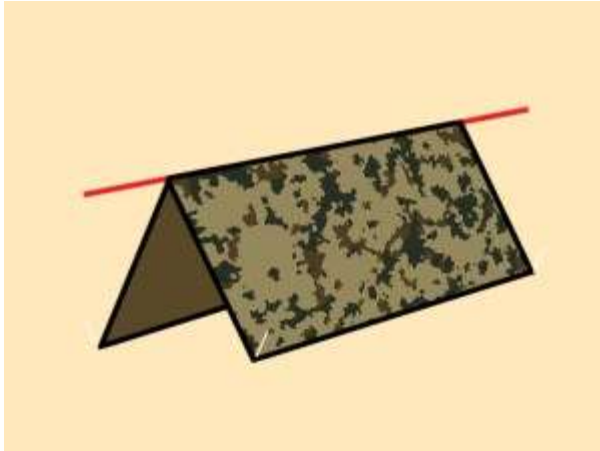


Tarp Shelter Designs

Use a [10X10 foot tarp](#).

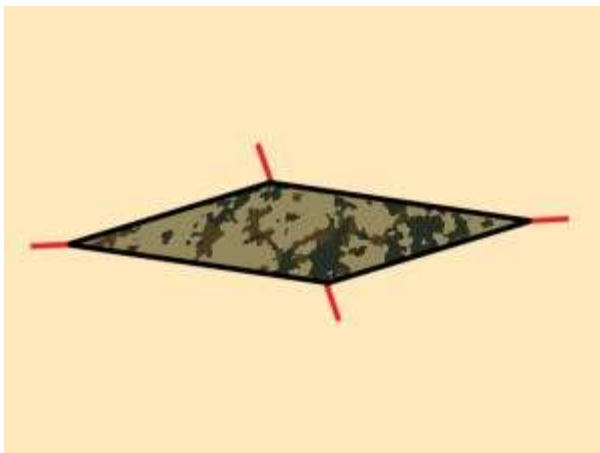
1. The A-frame tarp shelter



The A-Frame shelter is probably the most common shelter one can make. It can be made by stringing the [paracord](#) between two trees. Draping over the tarp and staking it down are the final steps required to make this common shelter. The 30-degree angle of the tarp's roof will create a ten foot-long living area. The shelter will be 8.6 feet wide and 2.5 feet tall. This shelter provides a good rain and snow runoff and a good wind deflection. The downside of the A-frame shelter is that there is no floor and if you haven't stretched the paracord tight enough, there will be sagging in the middle.

A must read article: [Planning a shelter in the wild](#)

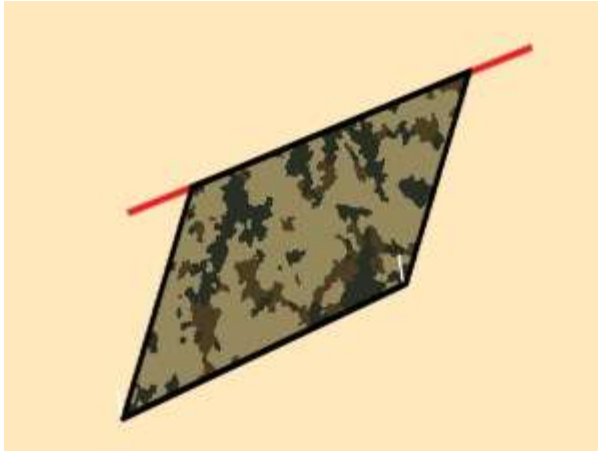
2. The Sunshade tarp shelter



To create this type of shelter you will need four anchoring points to which you will tie the paracord. This is a shelter parallel to the ground and it's designed to provide 100 square feet of shade against the sun. Some people use this type of shelter during the rain because the water will pool in the middle and it's easier to collect it. To make it sturdier you can add support poles to the corners. This basic sunshade tarp shelter will provide maximum protection against the sun, but it's not suitable for cold weather and it can't support rain for long.

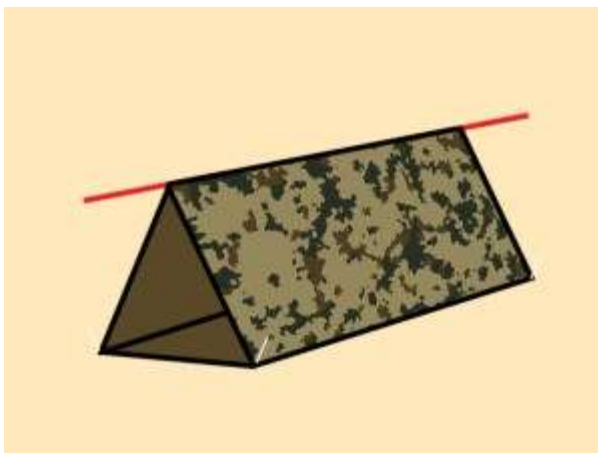
Tarp Shelter Designs

3. The Lean-To tarp shelter



This is another shelter that it's simple to make and it's great for deflecting wind or providing sunshade. To make this shelter you need to secure the tarp to the ground on the windward side and support it with the paracord between to anchor points. A 30 degree angle of the tarp will provide five feet of height and 8 feet of width under the shelter. This is an "on the go" shelter because it's easy to erect and you can quickly take it down. It provides great wind deflection and it will keep you safe from rain or sun heat. The downside of this shelter is that there are not sides and no floor to offer protection against other elements.

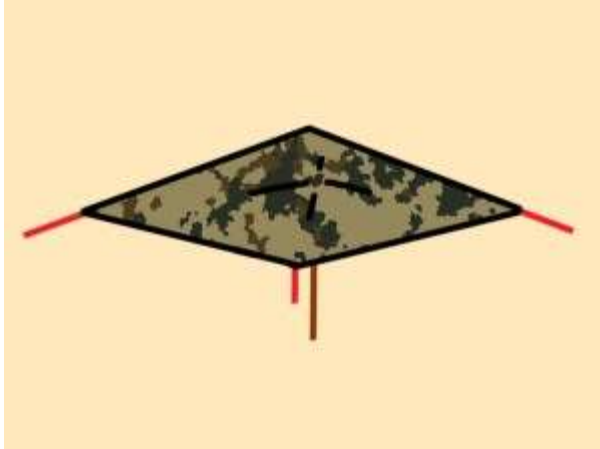
4. The tube tent tarp shelter



This is a sturdy shelter that provides a floor and, if properly secured to the ground, will prevent rain from seeping in. To make it, you will need to secure the paracord between to trees and drape over the tarp with the opposite ends secured together. The sixty degrees walls will provide 3 feet of width and almost 3 feet of headroom. This should be enough room for a single adult.

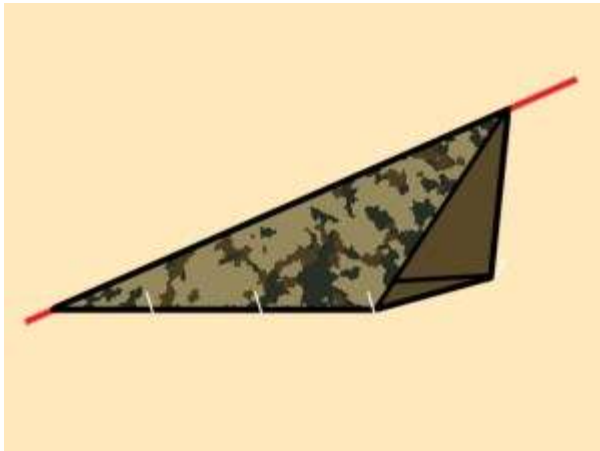
Tarp Shelter Designs

5. The mushroom fly tarp shelter



This type of shelter is very similar to the basic sunshade shelter but it adds a central support pole at the tarp's midpoint. It is designed for rain or snow runoff and it's pretty sturdy if you secure the four corners of the [tarp](#) well enough. You can make it as tall or as short as you need depending on the length of the pole. This shelter provides a great runoff for rain or snow, but it doesn't have any sides to protect you from the wind or cold.

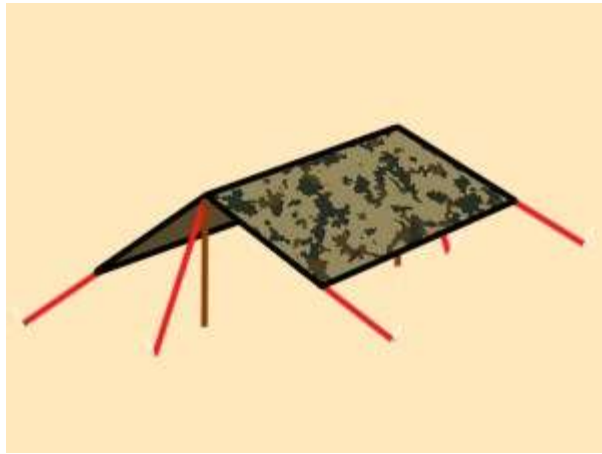
6. The cornet tarp shelter



This shelter utilizes the entire length of the paracord strung from a tree to the ground. The tarp is draped over the paracord diagonally, while the leading edges fold under to form the floor. The corner of the shelter must be faced towards the direction of the wind. You will also need to tie off some drip lines above the entrance of the shelter to prevent rain from running down the paracord and into the shelter. This is a good design for wind deflection and rain/debris shedding. The downside of this design is that it doesn't offer too much head room and if you are a tall person, you might not have enough room for you and your gear.

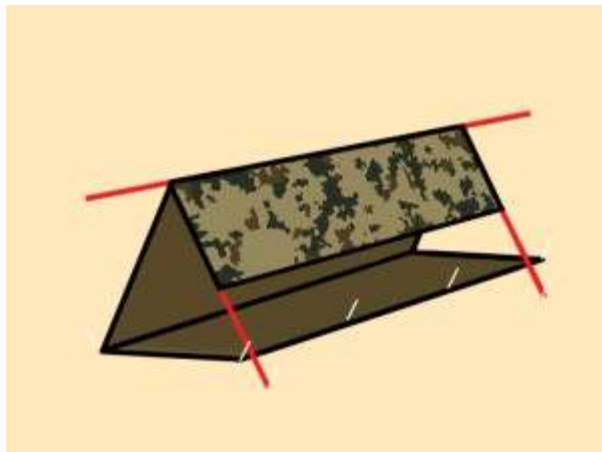
Tarp Shelter Designs

7. The dining fly tarp shelter



This is the favorite design for many camper and it's a simple open air cover. It provides a good sunshade and enough headroom without sacrificing too much space. It keeps away rain but it provides limited protection against the other elements due to its lack of sides. When properly tied down and staked, the dining fly becomes a sturdy shelter and the height of the support pole will dictate the amount of headroom. This is a good model for desert survival because it provides good ventilation and adequate coverage.

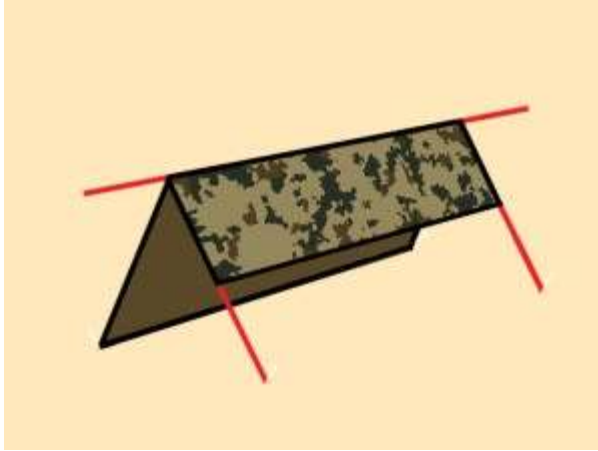
8. The wind shed tarp shelter



This type of shelter requires a little practice to get it done the right way. You will need to fold the tarp into thirds and make sure the leading edge of the roof hangs over the groundsheet for adequate rain runoff. The main ridgeline has to be secured with paracords while stretched between two trees. A length of paracord must be added to the bottom fold, where the back panel meets the groundsheet. It provides great wind deflection, but it requires a lot of secure points. The hanging roofline could also sag under rain loads and channel the water onto the groundsheet.

Tarp Shelter Designs

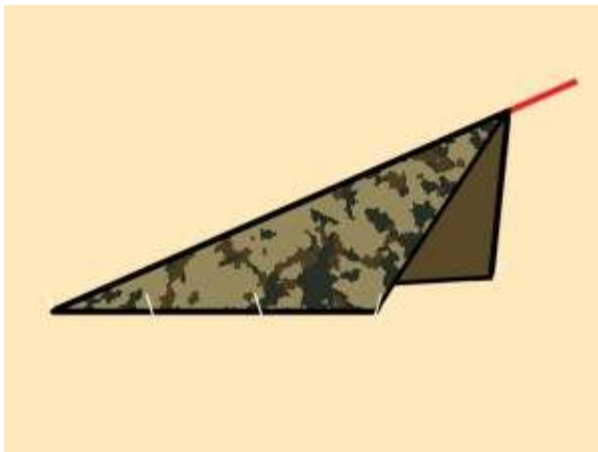
9. The Fold-Over Wind Shed tarp shelter



This design is similar to the traditional wind shed, but it provides more coverage by sacrificing the groundsheet. The height of the paracord ridgeline determines the angle of the roof and the footprint of the shelter. It provides great wind deflection and rain runoff, but it doesn't protect completely against the elements due to its lack of floor, flaps or sides.

Related reading: [Multiple fire types you can make in the wild](#)

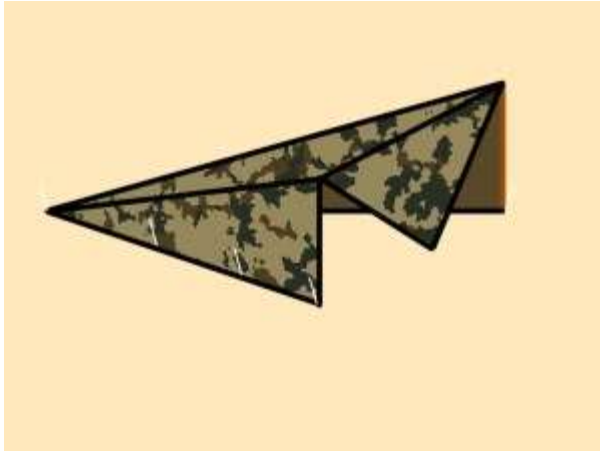
10. The diamond fly tarp shelter



This shelter is suitable for two persons and it's easy to make. You will need to secure the paracord to a tree and the ground, and drape over the tarp at a diagonal. The length of the paracord and the angle with which it is tied to a tree will determine the overall headroom and width of the shelter. The steep walls will shed rain and will deflect wind if they are well staked. This model will require drip lines, just like the cornet shelter. Depending on the size of the tarp, this shelter can accommodate more than two persons or more equipment, but the lack of a floor and flaps won't keep out the elements. If the wind changes direction frequently, the shelter can be compromised.

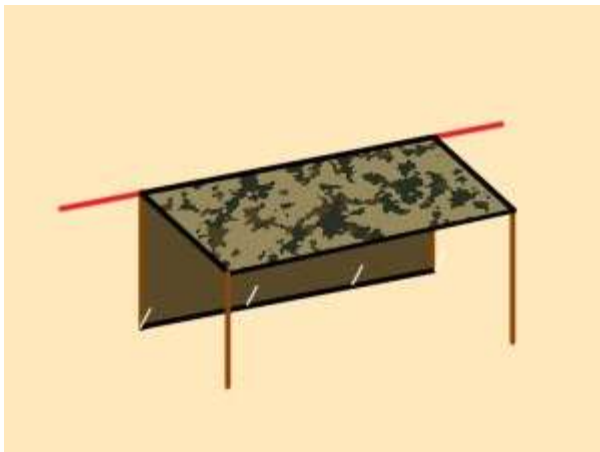
Tarp Shelter Designs

11. The arrowhead shelter



Start the construction of this shelter by supporting the center of two perpendicular edges with five foot long poles or by attaching those edges to trees using a paracord. You will need to stake to the ground the opposite corner so that it creates a series of four triangles. This design will provide 35 square feet of living space and five feet of headroom at the opening. The flap will hand down and make a partial closure. The poles need to be supported by [paracord](#) tie-downs. This shelter deflects wind with its low profile and it's very roomy.

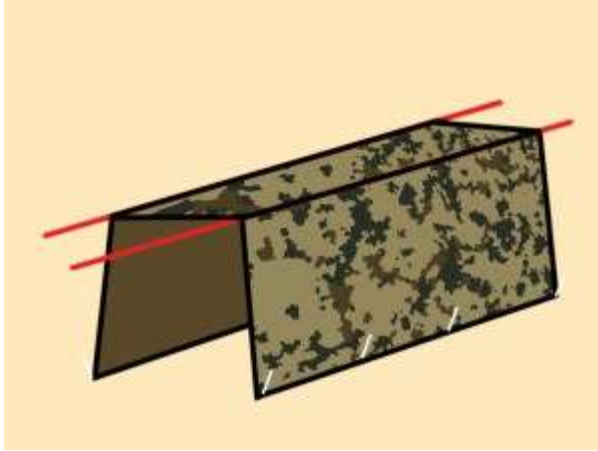
12. The barn stall tarp shelter



To make this shelter you can either use four five foot poles for support or two poles and a paracord attached to two anchor points. The front is supported by poles and the single 90 degree wall provides enough protection, although strong wind can damage the entire structure. This shelter produces a 50 square feet living area but it has no floor. It's simple to build, but it doesn't provide adequate protection from the weather.

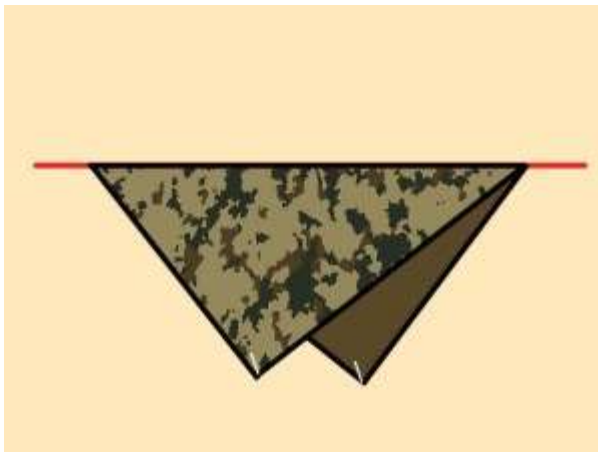
Tarp Shelter Designs

14. The Square arch tarp shelter



As the name implies, this shelter is an arch with a square top. Starting with two parallel lengths of paracord attached to anchor points approximately 3 feet apart and 3 feet high, drape the ground cloth over the two lengths of paracord and secure the long ends of the [tarp](#) with stakes. This is a good shelter for narrow spaces, but the odds of finding four anchor points in the needed proximity is quite low. To allow rain to runoff, make sure you secure one paracord slightly higher than the other. This shelter is three feet wide, three feet wide and ten feet long.

15. The shade sail tarp shelter



This is an easy and quick to build shelter and it requires to diagonally drape the tarp over a length of paracord attached to two anchor points. The opposite corners of the tarp are staked to the ground. This is an open and airy shelter and the lower the angles of the sides are, the better it will deflect wind and the more shade will provide. It provides all day shade and it requires minimal stakes and set up, but it's not weather resistant and it will not keep you dry.