State Emergency Service

Tarp Re-tensioning

The Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) provides tarps for your roof to temporarily protect your home from the elements.

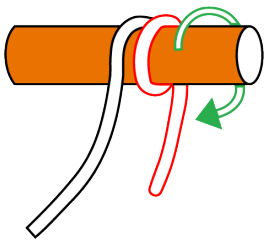
Use the following instructions to assist you in re-tying and tightening existing tarp knots.

⚠ **All tarp adjustments must be done from the ground.**

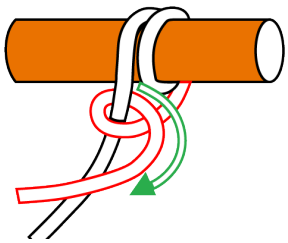
To secure a tarp to a tie-off point use a 'round turn and two half-hitches' knot. This simple knot keeps the tension on the tarping rope whilst being tied.

Make sure there is firm tension on the tarping rope but not so tight that you risk pulling the eyelets out of the tarp.

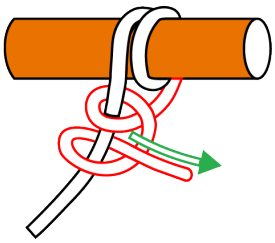
How to tie a 'round turn and two half hitches' knot



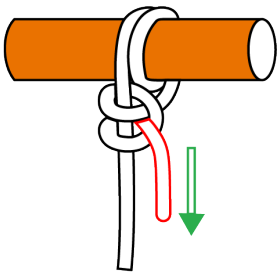
1. **Make a round turn:** wrap the rope twice around the tie-off point, pull to tighten the tarp, and hold the tension.



2. **Make a half hitch:** loop the rope around the main line, passing the end through the loop, then pull tight.



3. **Make a second half hitch:** by repeating step two.



4. Pull tight to complete the knot.

Choose the best tie-off point

Ensure what you use as a tie-off point is secure.
Give it a good shake first. If it moves, look for something else.

Examples of a tie-off point

- Fences - secure posts/rails, rather than paling
- Clotheslines – firmly anchored upright posts
- Railings on balconies or patios - check for rust or wood rot
- House stumps
- Trees

⚠ **If the tarping rope crosses a path or regular walking area, tie a piece of bright cloth to it so it can be easily seen day or night.**

Do not tie the tarp to vehicles or downpipes.

Queensland Government