

Tripod Setup Guidelines

Geometry

When setting up your tripod, these are some basics that will help you get a stable, blow-over-proof setup every time.

First rule of thumb: The footprint should equal the height of the dish. For example, measure the height of your dish setup. If the bottom lip of the dish is 62 inches from the ground, the feet of the tripod should be set at least 62 inches apart. If the bottom lip of the dish is 59 inches from the ground, the tripod feet should be set at least 59 inches apart.

BALLAST:

With this geometry, you'll need ballast and it is always better to error on the heavy side. Use at least 40 lbs of ballast— 5 gallons of water or more. 50 lbs or more is highly recommended.

This should be good in winds gusting up to 40 mph. The more weight the more wind it will withstand.

CRITICAL: If you absolutely must set up with a stance that has a footprint narrower than your height measurement, be aware that the dish will have a tremendous leverage advantage over any ballast you use. With such geometry, the ideal is to have the dish anchored to something immovable. If that is not possible, consider a hundred pounds or more of ballast. Barbell weights are a compact choice for such ballast.

Set the feet (or tie them together!)

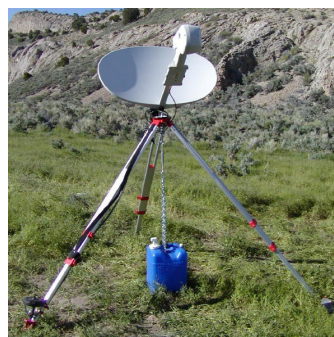
There are footpads on each foot for you to stand on to set the feet. Set them as deep as you can in the soil you're on. If you're setting up on a hard surface, you'll need something to keep the feet from spreading. You can use a chain. Some people use a folding wood platform to set the tripod on. Make sure that you follow the geometry and ballasting guidelines!



Feet well-planted and dish is anchored to the ground.



This dish is set 6' high and the legs are spread 7' apart. Ballast is 6 gallons of water (49.8 lbs). Legs are chained together so they won't slip on the hard surface.



This dish is 5' high to the bottom lip of the dish and the legs are spread 5' wide.



Folding "T" frame is drilled to keep legs from spreading on hard surfaces. It also keeps tripod from sinking in very soft surfaces like sand. Solar charged marker lights make the legs visible at night.



Very wide footprints don't require ballast. Plant the feet well! Legs spread this wide will withstand 60 mph winds.

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