

Building a shelter

Everyday materials can be used to create a shelter for use in rain and strong winds.

BUILDING A SHELTER

MATERIALS

• Tennis ball cut in half • Penknife • Matches • Ground sheet • Sticks • Sheet of plastic (2m x 4m) • Cord • Round pebbles • Stones or bricks

GUIDELINES

1. Get a strong sheet of plastic. Open it out and lay it on the ground.
2. Attach a cord to each corner of the sheet and to the centre of the longer sides.
3. Wrap the sheet corners around the round pebbles and tie the cord around the sheet corners and pebbles securing with a reef knot.
4. Wrap the cords loosely around large stones or bricks to hold the sheet down. Tie half-hitch knots in the wrapped cords around pebbles to secure them onto the stones or bricks.
5. Use the two cut tennis balls to attach the sticks to the plastic sheet as uprights. Slide the tops of the sticks into each end of the folded sheet. Push the sticks into the ground and pull the sheet to make the sheet form a triangular shape (the tennis balls prevent the sticks from puncturing the plastic at the apex).
6. Adjust the stones to tighten the plastic sheet on the shelter. This will also ensure that the rain will run off the shelter. To make your shelter more comfortable put a waterproof ground mat inside. Make sure the ground sheet is not sticking out as rain will collect on it and flood the shelter. Also ensure that the edges of the shelter plastic are not touching the ground.
7. Students should not enter the shelter until it is safely secured.

Card 4

MAKE AN OVERNIGHT SHELTER FOR 2 / 3 PEOPLE WITH THE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

Card 4

CHECKLIST OVERNIGHT SHELTER

- Is the shelter well secured?
- If it rained would you keep dry inside?
- Is it safe?

