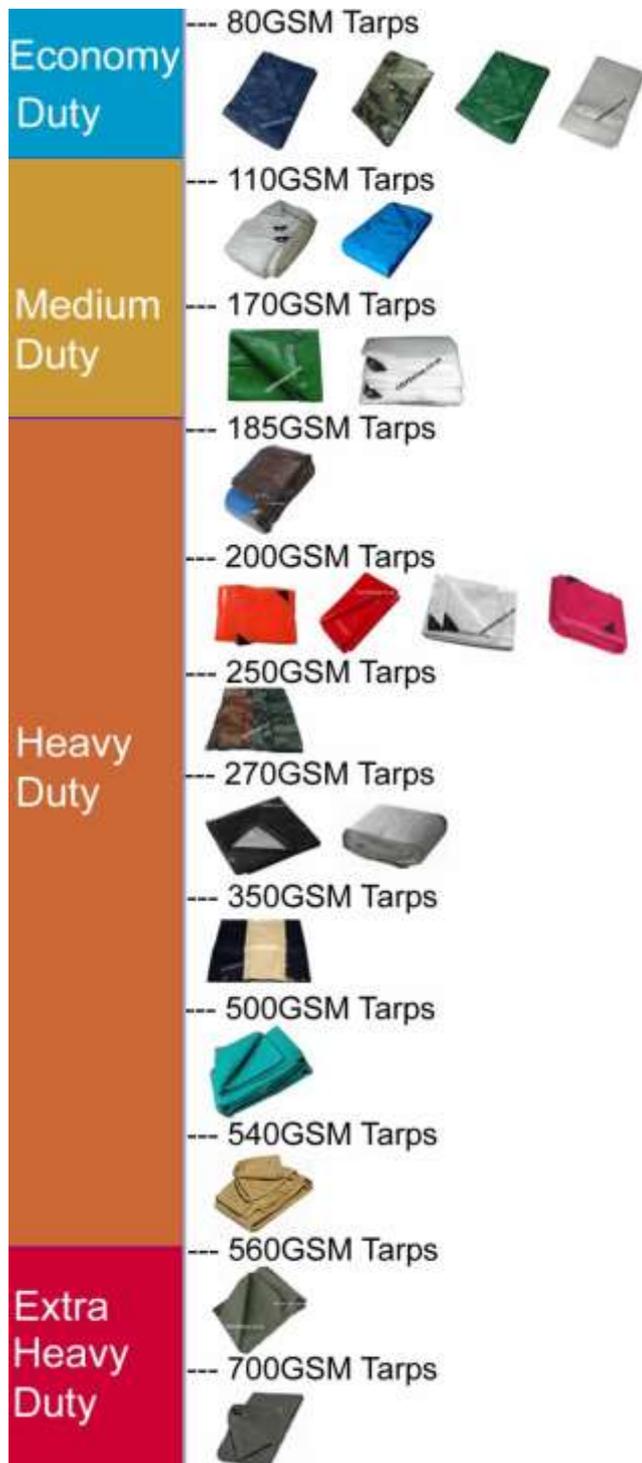


Tarpaulin Guide – Which One Do I Need To Buy?

Our QVSShop.co.uk Range



Contents

[Types of Tarpaulin – Pg. 1](#)

[What Tarp Do I Need? – Pg. 2](#)

[How To Use – Pg. 3](#)

Types of Tarpaulin

- **Polyethylene** – These are the most common types of tarps. Ranging from light to heavy duty they can be useful in a number of ways. Woven strips of polyethylene are covered with a waterproof coating to seal it. Often used by builders, painters, decorators, farmers and at home. These are economical sheets providing a quick and easy solution for most jobs.
- **Canvas** – Canvas is a tried and tested fabric made from cotton duck. It has been used for many years in sheets and coverings. It has excellent strength properties, along with being aesthetically pleasing.
- **PVC** – This is the strongest material in our range. It is often seen being used for lorry skirts, industrial covers, for nautical uses and other jobs where an extra heavy duty tarp is needed.

What Tarp Do I Need?

Important – If using the sheet outside or for any heavy duty capacity it is important to make sure it is '**UV Stabilised**' and '**Waterproof**'. Both of these properties will mean a better quality product, a longer life span and extra tolerance against the elements. You will often see **GSM** (Grams per square metre), this relates to the weight of the tarp and, in effect, the heavier the more durable.

<p><u>Home Uses</u> Such as: Painting & Decoration Covering Furniture Floor & Wall Protection</p>	<p><u>Outside Uses</u> Such as: Covering Items Outside Protecting Structures Farming Use Groundsheets</p>	<p><u>Industrial Uses</u> Such as: Covering Heavy Machinery Marine and Auto Uses Extra Long Term Uses</p>
---	---	---

Home Use

A light duty sheet will be sufficient enough to perform the duties necessary in the home, provided that it is looked after and stored correctly. A recommendation of a **polyethylene** tarp at a weight of least **80gsm** or more is suitable for temporary uses such as covering furniture, covering floors and using as dust sheets. For longer periods of time a sheet of a stronger duty will be necessary; ones of a medium duty (as seen in our range on pg. 1) **170gsm** would be advised for an extended life.

Outside Use

A stronger tarpaulin will be required for jobs that will be affected by weather. Sun, wind, rain, snow and freezing conditions will all contribute to the degradation of a sheet and that is why a weight of **200gsm or more** will be needed. Heavy duty **Polyethylene**, **PVC** and **Canvas** tarps can all be used for the purposes of covering items outside. We advise you to use your initiative when purchasing; if you believe a job will be for an extended amount of time or you will be subjecting the tarp to adverse weather conditions on a regular basis then a stronger sheet would be advised. The simple fact is that the better the tarp, the better the ability to do its job for a longer period of time.

Note – If using canvas, then most of the time it will be 'water resistant' rather than 'waterproof'. We do not recommend using canvas as a groundsheet for this reason.

Industrial Use

For use with heavy machinery, on farms and when performing substantial jobs on a building site then an extra heavy duty tarpaulin will be necessary. We would recommend **PVC** as the material is the most durable in our range. You will often see it in industrial settings and we would advise a tarp of at least **560gsm or more**.

How To Use a Tarpaulin

- **Golden Rule** – Make sure that the tarpaulin you purchase is heavy enough for the job you are doing.
- **Covering items** – When covering items, especially outside, the tarpaulin should be secured correctly. After you have put the sheet over your chosen object, eyelets can be used in conjunction with bungee and pegs to secure it. We recommend bungee because it stretches, helping to take stress away from the eyelets during gusts of wind. Eyelets can be damaged if they are the sole point of fixing, so secure the tarpaulin at as many points on the sheet as well as at the edges. It is also recommended to secure the tarp with rope over the top as this will help prevent the wind from lifting the tarp and over-stressing the eyelets.
- **Uses as a Roof, Awning or on a Frame** – **NEVER HANG A TARPAULIN SOLELY BY IT'S EYELETS** – eyelets are not built to take the strain of an entire tarp, they are fixing points only! With heavy duty sheets a frame or substantial support is necessary for them to do their job properly. A water run-off is also vital as the pooling of water can damage a tarpaulin.
- **Re-waxing** – Canvas will need to be re-waxed at regular intervals, the wax gives the tarpaulin its water resistant properties.
- **Groundsheets** – As with the previous points, the golden rules are support and security. When you lay a groundsheet use pegs to keep it in place.
- **Auto & Boat Protection** – When putting over your boat or car it is advisable to put a softer cover on first. This will be kinder to the painted surface of the vehicle and stop any colour transference of damage from the eyelets.