

# ECONOTARPS

**First in Tarps that Last!**

## Buyers Guide

Comshare Analysis P/L.  
A.C.N. 008 891 398 ABN 43 008 891 398  
28 Drynan Street,  
Bayswater, W.A. 6053.  
Ph: (08) 9371 9902  
Fax: (08) 9371 9905

### Guaranteed Quality:

The most important factor to consider before purchasing a tarp is the resistance to sunlight or ultra-violet (UV) damage. Some imported polyethylene tarps last less than 6 months in the sun. **Econotarps Extra Heavy Duty tarps are guaranteed for 3 years.** They may last much longer - possibly well over 4 years without significant loss of strength or degradation if the maximum UV protection is used in their manufacture.

Another important consideration is if the eyelets are reinforced. Econotarps EHD tarps have **rust-proof solid brass eyelets reinforced with 2 layers of strong 250gsm tarpaulin material.** Tarp eyelets can be subject to considerable strain so we use an **extra heavy duty black thread** to stitch the reinforcing patches onto the tarp

### **Light, Heavy Duty and Extra Heavy Duty grade Polyethelene (PE) Tarps:**

*Polyethelene is an inert material and is therefore non-toxic. This is the same material that "Glad Wrap" is made from. It is also recyclable. Econotarps are made to our strict specifications to ensure long life, with maximum UV resistance and maximum strength. We use a black material for the weave in our imported Heavy Duty and Extra Heavy Duty tarps for example, to ensure long life.*

*Tests prove the black base fabric has greater UV resistance than the normal clear fabric used by other manufacturers. White coatings or laminations reflect the heat and we have found that the white lamination lasts much longer than other colours, therefore we recommend using the tarp with the white side up for long life.*

*The weight of tarps is dependent on the denier rating or strength of the weave or base fabric and also the thickness of the coating or lamination. To simplify this, we refer to the total weight of 1 square metre of fabric. This is called **gsm** or **grams per square metre**. A 250gsm tarp is over double the weight and strength of a 120gsm tarp.*

**Light Duty, 120gsm:** - Silver reflective top side and light blue underneath. Clear base fabric. For temporary use where strength is not important. Will not withstand strong winds and if used on trailers, must be tied down securely to prevent flapping which will destroy the tarp. Life expectancy in the sun is approx. 3 - 6 months. No warranty - except if faulty.

**Heavy Duty, 220gsm:** - Silver top side, Olive Green underneath. Eyelets with stainless steel "D" ring reinforcing every 800mm approx. An economical tarp for use where wind forces are not great, in protected positions or if the tarp can be weighed down with planks, sand bags, old tyres etc. Black base fabric protects items from sunlight damage.

**Extra Heavy Duty, 250gsm:** - White on top side and Tree Green underneath. The white top lamination reflects the heat and on a very hot day (36 °C) its surface can be about **14% cooler than a Silver Tarp.** This is an imported tarp made from extra heavy duty Polyweave to Econotarps

specifications. **U.V. warranty: 3 years.** The black base fabric resists sunlight damage which means the tarp retains its strength for years longer than standard PE tarps which have a clear or transparent base fabric.

The **black base fabric** which blocks sunlight makes it ideal for protecting items affected by UV such as fiberglass boats, pools, trampolines & outdoor furniture. **Solid Brass Eyelets every 800mm:** are closer than most other tarps on the market (usually 900 - 1000mm)

They are **reinforced** with a patch of 2 layers of material, allowing greater tension to be applied to prevent flapping if used on vehicles or in wind prone locations. An extra strong, thick black thread is used on the reinforcing patches.

Suitable for covering boats, machinery, caravans, flysheets over tents, general shading, ground sheet or a wind break, pool cover. The complete blocking of light helps prevent the growth of algae in pools. Also suitable for covering roofs if secured well; light courier trucks, and jobs where a heavier tarp is required.

May be used on larger trucks providing speed is limited to around 100 km/hr but this may need to be reduced if strong head winds are encountered. The tarp needs to be secured well to prevent flapping in strong winds which can cause deterioration of the waterproof lamination.

**PVC Tarps 610gsm:** These imported tarps have a woven synthetic (polyester) fabric for strength and are coated with Polyvinylchloride for waterproofing. They usually have a life of around 5 - 6 years in the sun and are more wear resistant than polytarps. They can also be easily repaired with glues or welding. Their main disadvantage is their heavy weight which can be a problem for larger tarpaulins. They are also more expensive than PE tarpaulins and cannot be recycled. PVC (vinyl) tarps are most commonly used on trucks and roofs because of their strength and durability. They are also recommended for covering trailers or utes on country trips because they resist wear caused by flapping in strong winds. They are UV, mildew, rot and flame resistant with reinforced solid brass eyelets every 800mm.

**Canvas Tarps 560gsm:** These imported tarps are made from a strong Polyester/Cotton fabric which is UV treated. They are also mildew and rot resistant. Canvas is porous, allowing the fabric to "breathe" which makes this material suitable for tents and for covering items where coolness and this breath-ability is an advantage. Canvas is considerably lighter than PVC but it can temporarily lose its waterproofing ability if it is allowed to rub on whatever it is covering. Canvas tarps need a high percentage of Polyester in the weave to give them strength and to increase their weathering resistance. The Australian industry standard seems to be about 50% polyester and 50% cotton. They have reinforced solid brass eyelets every 500mm.

**Mesh Tarps (95% effective shade) 165gsm:** These tarps are ideal for shade but of course are not waterproof. They have brass eyelets every 900mm and are UV stabilised. Suitable for use as a wind break or extra privacy. They can also be used as a ground cover. The open weave helps protect grassed areas under tents in caravan parks.

**Caravan or Sail Track Awnings:** These are the Extra Heavy Duty tarp with a 7.5mm "Keder" Track sewn in one side to allow it to be attached to a caravan which has the standard "Caragroove" or "Sail Track" Aluminium track fitted. This track is available from us or a caravan accessory outlet if it needs to be fitted. Popular sizes are available ready made. Other sizes can be made to order.

Poles, ropes, pegs etc. are available.

**Home Awnings:** The Caragroove or Sail Track can be fitted to the side of a building, allowing a tarp to be easily attached. A supportive framework can be constructed using caravan "Roof Rails" and poles. It can then be held down using guy ropes with springs attached to maintain tension. Eyebolts into concrete or cement slabs are better than pegs in sandy soils for tying ropes down. A car port or outdoor entertainment area can be created in this way.

**Pool Covers:** Because black base fabric tarps block most sunlight, algae build-up in pools can be reduced. It is best to elevate the cover above the water with floats or a frame. This allows rain water to drain off.

**Accessories:** - Ropes-Poly: 50 Metre coils, 4mm, 6mm and 8mm diameter. Also quality U.V. stabilised White Silver Rope in 6mm and 8mm in 20m and 50m coils. Accessories - Eyelets, Telescopic poles, Spreader Bars, Roof Rails, Pegs, Guy ropes, Ocky straps, Ratchet Tie downs, Springs, Buckles, Webbing, Velcro, Shock cord, Press studs, Splicing clips, Lashing hooks, Torneau loops, Caragroove Caravan Track.

**Measuring The Area to be Covered:** Run a tape measure across the width of the item to be covered. If it is an irregular shape, measure the widest point you need to cover. If it is a boat with a cabin, run the tape over the highest point you need to cover. If the measuring tape is too short, use a rope or string and then measure the rope or string. Then measure the length using the same method. On boats you may cover an outboard motor with a smaller tarp.

**Securing your Tarp:** Tarps can be secured by ropes or elastic "Shock Cord". Shock Cord or Trace Springs are better as they keep tension on the tarp and prevent flapping in a wind which can cause the lamination on the tarp to come off. The heavier the tarp, the more resistant it is to wear by flapping. Tarps on trailers and trucks need to be well secured to prevent this type of damage. We recommend that tarps used on vehicles should not be subject to speeds much over 100 kmh unless secured very well, so no flapping occurs.

**Covering Large Areas:** A tarp covering a large area can be compared to a sail on a boat. The forces exerted by strong winds can result in the eyelets of the tarp being ripped out if a strong gust of wind gets under the tarp and it behaves like a sail. Remember sails are made from exceptionally strong materials and their eyelets are reinforced with several layers of material to form a large patch to take the strain.

To prevent this "sail" effect, all eyelets need to be well secured, preferably with springs or elastic "Shock Cord" to allow some "give". Sand bags tied to the eyelets are a good option as they allow some movement which takes the strain from sudden wind gusts. This is the method the State Emergency Service uses.

Separate ropes 1 - 2 metres apart (depending on conditions) may need to be pulled tight over and across the tarp to hold it down and take the strain off the eyelets. Alternatively, wooden planks, vehicle tyres, sand bags or other weights may need to be used to avoid this problem.

Moderate sized tarps used as shelters may be suspended using strong shock cord on 2 adjacent sides, with ropes on the opposite sides. Unless supported by a frame however such shelters may need to be dropped in very strong winds.

**Alterations:** We are able to perform alterations to suit your requirements. Please allow a week for this to be done. Some standard alterations include:

**Joining 2 tarps or Trimming to size:** Tarps can be sewn together however slight leakage could occur in some conditions. The most economical way to cut a tarp down to a smaller size is to cut off the edge complete with the reinforced eyelets and then sew this strip back on the trimmed tarp. Some very slight leakage is possible where it is stitched.

**Shorteners:** These are reinforced eyelets often placed a metre or so in from the edge of the tarp. This allows a large

tarp to be used to cover smaller areas, for example a smaller load on a truck. Holdon's, which are a clamp style eyelet, can be used to shorten a tarp: simply fold the tarp where needed and attach a holdon to the folded seam. Light electrical wire, small diameter Venetian Blind cord can be placed in the fold to give extra grip (Holdon's have a small groove in them that is designed to grip the cord sewn into the hem of tarps).

**Extra Eyelets:** Light weight and many 'Heavy Duty' imported tarps have non reinforced eyelets which may be inadequate for some uses. Extra reinforced eyelets can be added to suit your requirements. Our Extra Heavy Duty tarps have reinforced eyelets every 800mm.

DIY Eyelet Kits which include the dies necessary for the application of extra eyelets, are available. Extra eyelets can be fitted along the seamed edge which will have reasonable strength but naturally won't be as strong as a reinforced eyelet.

A better option is "Holdons" which are a heavy duty nylon clamp which can be easily attached to the hem. Holdon's spread the load over 30mm which is much more than an eyelet (10mm) and is therefore much stronger.

**Ropes Fitted to Tarps:** Ropes can be fitted to all or some eyelets to suit your requirements. The standard length is 1 metre.

**Keder Track to Suit Caravans:** This is a 7.5mm flexible track sewn into the edge of a tarp which allows it to be threaded through the aluminium "Caragroove" or "Sail" track common on most caravans. The Australian standard size aluminium sail track is 9mm diameter. This track system can also be used to attach awnings to buildings for use as a shelter, carport etc.

Imported vans or awnings from Europe may have a 6.5mm diameter sail track. We have a 6mm Keder tape which we can attach to any tarp to suit your needs.

### **Repairs:**

**Poly Tarps:** A pressure sensitive adhesive cloth reinforced waterproof tape can be used for small repairs. Larger holes or rips may need to have a patch sewn on.

**PVC Tarps:** Can be glued with a suitable PVC glue. Pool repair kits can be used.

**Canvas Tarps:** Patches can be sewn or glued on. PVC, urethane or contact glues can be used.

**Delivery WA Metro Area:** \$10.00.

**Delivery WA Country:** Price on application.

**Delivery Interstate:** All tarps may be ordered online with freight automatically calculated at the checkout before payment.

**Calculate Weight:** Multiply the tarp width by the length to give the area e.g. 3.7m x 6.1m = 22.57. Multiply the area by the weight of the tarp e.g. a 250g per square metre tarp would be 0.250 x 22.57 = 5.64kg. Allow another 1kg for packaging = 6.64kg.