4. **Increasing the height of the stake knot above the ground decreases stake holding capacity.**

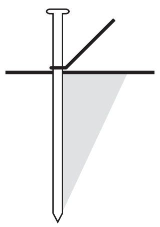

Figure 15. Stake Knot Height

5. **Holding power varies with anchor types.**

6. **DOUBLE STAKING**
   Double staking is the practice of driving another stake a short distance behind the primary stake and close-tying both stakes together with the free end of the guy rope.

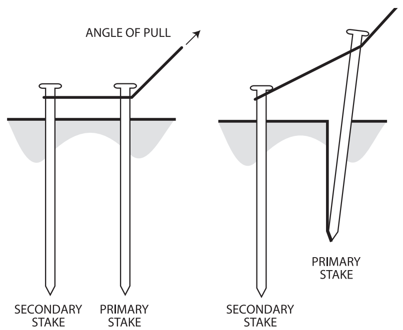


Figure 17. Double Staking

**A rule of thumb for double staking suggests that the distance between stakes be equal to one-third the depth of the stakes in the ground.**

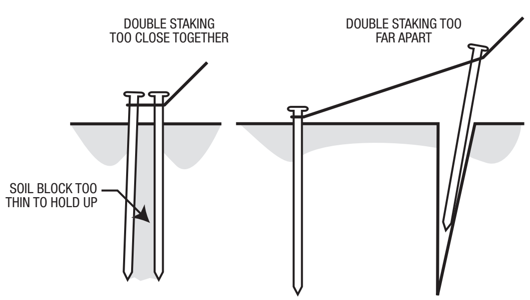


Figure 18. Double Staking Errors

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POCKET GUIDE

# Pullout Capacity of Tent Stakes

Tent Rental Division

## Systematic Approach to Stakes

1. **The larger the stake diameter, the greater the holding power.**

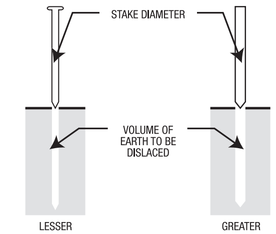


Figure 8. Stake Performance & Volume of Displaced Ear

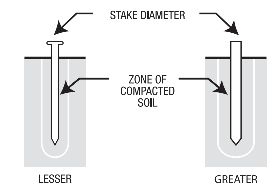


Figure 9. Stake Performance & Zone of Displaced Earth

2. **The deeper the stake, the greater the holding power.**

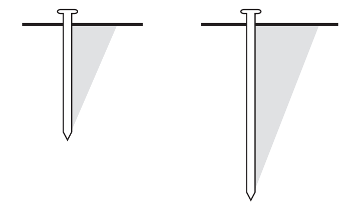

Figure 11. Soil Wedge (Bulb) Size and Sideways Resistance

3. **Optimum guy rope angle provides optimum holding power.**

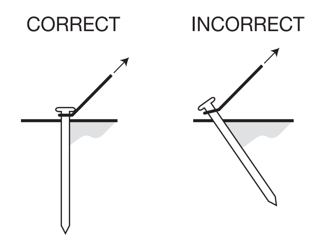


Figure 13. Stake Driving Angle

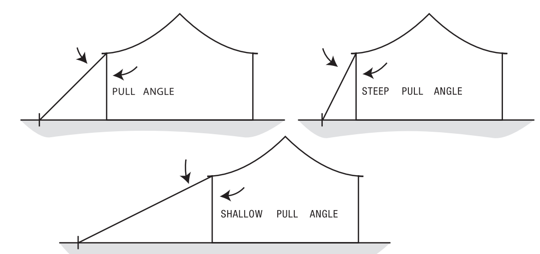


Figure 14. Pull Angles and Stake Location

# Estimating Pullout Capacity of Tent Stakes

An outline for estimating pullout capacity for tent stakes is described in this pocket guide. The complete **Staking Study Summary** is included in the **IFAI Procedural Handbook for the Safe Installation and Maintenance of Tentage** available at IFAI.com/bookstore.

## Pullout Capacity for a Single Stake

The method estimates the stake pullout capacity for a "baseline" stake, and then applies correction factors for conditions that vary from the baseline case. The baseline case for a tent stake is as follows:

1. stake diameter is 1.0 inch
2. the side of the stake is smooth
3. the steel stake is driven vertically
4. the stake is embedded (driven) 36 inches in the ground
5. The load is fastened at 2 inches above the ground surface, and
6. The load is pulled at a 45 degree angle.

**Table 1.** Simple Method for Estimating Pullout Capacity for Baseline Case

| Field Indentification* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CONSISTENCY | SOIL RESISTANCE | STAKE PENETRATION RESISTANCE (Inches per blow**) | PULLOUT CAPACITY FOR BASELINE CASE, P (LBS.) |
| Hard (Very Dense) | Indented with difficulty by thumbnail | less than 0.2" | 2500 |
| Very Stiff (Dense) | Readily indented by thumbnail | 0.2-0.5" | 1600 |
| Stiff (Medium-Dense) | Readily indented by thumb but penetrated only with great effort | 0.5-1.5" | 800 |
| Medium (Medium) | Can be penetrated several inches by thumb with moderate effort | 1.5-3" | 400 |
| Soft (Loose) | Easily penetrated several inches by thumb | 3-6" | 200w |
| Very Soft (Very Loose) | Easily penetrated several inches by thumb | greater than 6" | 100 |

***Note**: Field identification is subjective. For fine-grained soils, use both the verbal description and the inches per blow to select the appropriate consistency of soil to select the baseline capacity. For course-grained soils, use the penetration per blow to assess soil consistency.

****Note**: Stake Penetration Resistance is based on the average penetration of the stake per blow with a 16 lb. sledge hammer with a normal swing.

## Estimates of Pullout Capacity for Baseline Case

The strength of the soils is an important detail for estimating pullout capacity. The penetration resistance offered by the tent stake during installation provides a rough miscue for the strength of the soil and is based on the average penetration of the stake per blow (for the first 20 inches of embedment) with a 16 lb. sledge hammer using a normal swing. **Table 1** provides a rough relationship between penetration resistance, soil consistency, and pullout capacity for a baseline.

Two important details and cautionary notes about using Table 1 for estimating capacity are:

1. Table 1 requires a subjective measure (Stake Penetration Resistance) for estimating pullout capacity. More accurate and precise methods are available and given in the IFAI Tent Staking Report. However, the more accurate methods require a greater effort for determining soil strength.
2. Table 1 provides a relationship between driving resistance and baseline stake capacity for the soil conditions at the time of driving. If the stake is driven during dry conditions, and then the ground becomes saturated, a loss of soil strength and pullout capacity will result. The loss of soil strength is not possible to predict with confidence without an extensive soil testing or stake pullout testing program. However, results from the IFAI tent staking study indicatethat the pullout capacity of stakes driven in saturated ground are about one-half the capacity of the stakes driven in the same ground under dry conditions.

## Adjusting Estimated Capacity for Conditions Different than Baseline Case

The pullout capacity for a stake that is different from the baseline case can be estimated as the baseline capacity multiplied by factors that adjust for the variation in conditions from the baseline (such as a different stake embedment, stake inclination, stake diameter, fastening height, and pull angle). The pullout capacity for the stake can be determined as the baseline capacity, multiplied by the appropriate adjustment factors as follows:

$$P = P_b \times C_e \times C_f \times C_i \times C_l \times C_d < 2500 \text{ lbs.}$$

Where P = pullout capacity for a single stake,
$P_b$ = pullout capacity for a standard stake (the baseline case),
$C_e$ = correction factor for embedment depth,
$C_f$ = correction factor for fastening height,
$C_i$ = correction factor for stake inclination,
$C_l$ = correction factor for load angle, and
$C_d$ = correction factor for stake diameter.

The appropriate correction factors can be obtained from the tables below.

**CORRECTION FACTOR FOR Embedment**

| STAKE EMBEDMENT (in.) | $C_e$ |
|---|---|
| 36 | 1.00 |
| 34 | 0.92 |
| 32 | 0.84 |
| 30 | 0.76 |
| 28 | 0.69 |
| 26 | 0.61 |
| 24 | 0.54 |

**CORRECTION FACTOR FOR Fastening Height**

| FASTENING HEIGHT (in.) | $C_f$ |
|---|---|
| 2 | 1.00 |
| 4 | 0.98 |
| 6 | 0.96 |
| 8 | 0.94 |
| 10 | 0.92 |
| 12 | 0.90 |

**CORRECTION FACTOR FOR Stake Inclination**

| STAKE INCLINATION | $C_i$ |
|---|---|
| For stake angle from 0 to 15 degrees | 1.00 |
| For stake angle = 30 degrees | 0.77 |

**CORRECTION FACTOR FOR Stake Diameter**

| STAKE DIAMETER (in.) | $C_d$ |
|---|---|
| 1.000 | 1.0 |
| 1.125 | 1.1 |

**CORRECTION FACTOR FOR Load Angle**

| ANGLE OF PULL (from horizontal) | $C_l$ |
|---|---|
| 45 degrees (1H:1V) | 1.00 |
| 53 degrees (2H:3V) | 0.85 |

## Ribbed vs. Smooth Stake

Results of the testing program showed no significant difference in pullout capacity between 1-inch diameter steel stake with smooth sides and a 1-inch steel stake with ribs for most pullout tests. However, structural yielding in the ribbed stakes occurred at pullout loads lower than the smooth steel stakes because of the difference in the structural strength. Accordingly, the pullout capacity of ribbed stakes should be limited to a pullout capacity no greater than 1600 lbs.

## Determination of Capacity for Group Stakes

The pullout capacity of group stakes can be estimated bymultiplying the baseline capacity of a single stake by an"effectiveness factor" as follows:

$$P_g = P_b \times E_f$$

Where $P_g$ is the capacity of the stake group,
$P_b$ is the pullout capacity for a single stake under baseline condition, and
$E_f$ is the effectiveness factor for the group of stakes.

The effectiveness factors for a group of stakes can be determined using **Table 2**.

**Table 2.** Effectiveness Factor for Group Stakes

| Group Configuration | Effectiveness FACTOR |
|---|---|
| Double Staking | 1.22 |
| Three Stakes installed in a line perpendicular to direction of pull | 2.76 |
| Three Stakes installed in a lineperpendicular to direction of pull are inclined at 15 degrees | 2.46 |
| Six Stakes installed in a line perpendicular to direction of pull | 4.68 |
| Four Stakes installed in two columns and two rows and connected with a gang plate | 3.48 |
| Six Stakes installed in two columns and three rows and connected with a gang plate | 4.56 |

**Note**: Table 2 requires the stakes in the group to satisfy the conditions set for the baseline case