

Gazebos

We all love a gazebo.

It gives you shade and shelter, makes an excellent well-ventilated spot to set up your camp kitchen and gives you a space to chill, model your new costume or plan your next adventure.

The only thing about gazebos is they have a secret desire to become a kite. To fly - up, up and away to freedom.



Essentially, while they stand up well in mild weather, they need extra reinforcement to cope with feisty conditions. Especially windy conditions. And one thing guaranteed at Blaze- there will be wind. Lots of it and from all directions. Feisty.

Peg it down - most gazebos have peg holes in the uprights, so use them. Firmly peg the gazebo down to the ground. If each upright has two peg holes, take the hint and put in two pegs. Use heavy duty pegs.

Tie it down - what are these loops on the corners for? Most gazebo covers have loops or eyelets at the corners, this is so you can use guy ropes to secure the gazebo to the ground. Use at least one guy rope on each corner at a 45° angle, but two is better.

USE PEGS & GUY ROPES

Weigh it down - use weights on each upright. There are nifty weights made for this, they come in two halves - fill them with sand or water and fix them to the uprights.

Tie it to a vehicle - for added wind resistance, secure the gazebo frame to your car or trailer. Start by tying the end of a long length of rope to your vehicle, then take the rope around and through the gazebo frame before tying the other end off to the vehicle once more.

Remember, the weather is likely to change. A bit of extra effort at set up will mean you're less likely to be clinging to a very large, unruly kite at 3am, while the wind howls and your gazebo is making a break for freedom.