Spiderweb Nets

installation instructions

NOTES: Please check for any damage caused by the shipping company and take appropriate steps to file a claim, if needed. Photographs of damage are critical, and are sometimes the only way to submit and prove a claim.

*Please call **Digsafe** and check for any underground utilities before digging anywhere.

Materials needed

4' piece of rebar to stir the concrete in the post holes, 1x3 x8' strapping to stabilize posts during concrete curing (used strapping for braces and for stakes), and 12 sheetrock screws for braces, post hole digger, shovel, level, tape measure, 80 lb bags of premixed concrete (not included). Concrete amounts can be easily calculated at http://www.quikrete.com/Calculator/Main.asp. Amount required depends on how deep you dig the holes.

1) Keep in mind that this is a climbing element and therefore should have a fall zone extending 6 feet out on all sides of it which is usually 6-12" deep. You can create an above ground container for this material by using either 2 layers of 6x6 retainers made for this purpose (which are for sale in another section in this store), or by digging a large hole 12" deep. If you choose to dig the hole, keep in mind that it needs to be drained so it doesn't fill up with rainwater or snow melt.
2) If you decided to use a fall zone, don't Install the fall zone material until you have dug the holes for the posts, and installed the posts.
3) Stretch out the climbing net in the area in which it's going to be mounted, making sure the ropes are straight all the way across the circle and beyond.
4) Leave at least 24 inches between the edge of the net and the front side of where the posts will be, and mark all 8 post locations. You need this space to tighten the ropes if they get loose.
5) Dig all eight post holes as deep as required in your region, keeping in mind that the post has to go up through fall zone material, and that the top hole on the posts should be at least 24-36 inches off that material. With weight on it, the net will sag, so you need clearance.
6) Some people like to tilt the posts slightly away from the net, so if you want to do that, adjust the holes accordingly.
7) If you choose to use 12 inch to 14 inch Sonotubes, make any further adjustments to the hole so that these tubes drop in cleanly. But then you MUST backfill and compact around the Sonotubes. KEEP IN MIND that if the earth is disturbed, you will end up with loose posts, so sometimes it's better to just dig the holes, and use the earth as the container (no sonotubes).
8) Mark the desired depth of the posts on each post so you can try to keep the tops level (unless you are sloping the net, in which case you might need longer posts, or you might need to add extensions to the posts that came with the package).
9) Put about 6 inches of drainage stone at the bottom of each hole.
10) Drop the posts into the holes, and use more or less drainage stone to adjust the post heights to where you want them.

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11) Using the strapping, stakes, and the level, brace the posts so they are plumb (unless you are tipping them back).
12) Mix and pour concrete around the posts, and let it cure.
13) At this point, you might find it easiest to install and spread the fall zone material.
14) Thread each of the ropes through the top hole on every post, and pull just a little bit. Do not try to tighten until all ropes are through all top holes.
15) Then take one rope, and adjust it in its hole to where you want it (at least 12 inches away from the post), then run it back through the bottom hole, then wrap the loose end around the post, slipping the end of it underneath the last wrap. If you want to nail or staple this end to hold it in place, that would be fine, but keep in mind that you will periodically need to tighten the rope.
16) Do the same with the rope on the opposite side, and pull this rope hard to make it as tight as possible.
17) Now go to the rope and posts that are perpendicular to the rope you just did, and do the exact same thing.
18) Then go around and do the same things in the same way (do one rope, and then the rope opposite it) until all ropes are fastened.
19) NOTE: as you begin tightening all these ropes, you will find that you can easily distort the shape of the net, so keep that in mind as you make your final adjustments.
20) The net is ready to use!
21) As mentioned above, if you need to tighten the net, merely loosen the ropes from around the posts, pull them tight, and rewrap.
22) The posts are treated with kid-friendly preservative, but with all wood facing the elements, it needs to be cared for, so check it periodically for rough spots, splinters, etc, sand them out, then treat with kid-friendly wood preservative (see product under Maintenance) once or twice a year to keep the wood from deteriorating.

For the vertical nets, it's really up to you. See the photos and decide how you want to hang them. We suggest you fasten them to the ground with large earth anchors, or with a carabiner attached to an anchor in a concrete foot. If you choose the concrete option, make sure the concrete is buried in the fall zone material.

This is a photo of a 12 point net, but the 8 point net looks similar.