

Protect your Banners and Telescopic Poles

Attaching to the ground:

How you attach your pole to the ground depends on the surface:-
(The diagrams overleaf may help you understand these directions)

- **Garden beds** are easy...get a 'stake', a broom handle (piece of dowel) or piece of reo steel about 1200mm long. Hammer this stake into the dirt with about 600mm sticking out and leave it there forever. Then simply slide the banner pole onto this each morning. The stake sticking out of the ground is no problem because it's in the garden bed.
- **Grass verge** is pretty easy too...cut a piece of PVC pipe (about 25mm diam.) about 450mm long and drive it into the grass. Make sure it's flush with the ground so no-one can trip over it. Hose or dig it out so it's empty. Now drop the stake into the hole each morning and slide the banner pole onto it. Each afternoon, when you remove the banner pole and the stick all that is left is a small hole in the ground.
- **Concrete footpath** is a problem...you will need a steel plate with a steel rod welded to it to slide the banner pole over. Get this made by your local welder guy. Use a flat steel plate (or used tilling blade) and weld a 600mm length of 25mm gal pipe into the middle of it. You will need to weight this down with a few 2kg sand bags. We use old pillow cases and half fill em' with sand.
- **Verandah post** is a good alternative... Use hose clamps to strap a 450-600mm piece of 25mm PVC pipe to the verandah post and just slide your banner pole into that each day. Make sure of a few things first:-
 1. If you want this to be off the ground make sure you put a secure base on the PVC. I suggest drilling a small hole across the base with a 6g threaded bolt through it.
 2. Check how much free pole there is after you slide the banner on. Some of the banners are longer than others and if you don't have enough 'unbanned' pole, you may need to slip a piece of dowel into the PVC to make up the difference.
 3. Check that the banner will clear the awning above the verandah pole. If you want the banner at a slight angle to get away from the awning, just slip a wedge in between the post and the PVC before tightening the top clamp.

Protecting your poles:

- **Never** pull the pole sections too tightly into each other, they are good quality woven glass but it is thin walled and can split.
- **Use** a roll of electrical tape to hold the sections together if you find they are slipping down during the day....this stops you needing to pull them together too tightly.
- **Do not leave out** in strong winds. Neither the poles or the banners are designed for strong winds. Strong winds *will* break the poles and *will* cause the banners to shred at the seams.
- **Do not** let the poles rub against anything. They are thin fiberglass and constant rubbing against a stake, a pole, a rope...will cause them to wear through.
- **Do not** tie the banner tightly to the pole. The tying system at the bottom of the banner is designed to stop the banner blowing away, do not use it to tension the banner, it will cause the poles to collapse and the feather to wear through at the top. Tie them loosely only.
- **Do not** use the pole if the rubber tip is missing from the top of the pole. This is a protective tip and without it, the top of the pole will very quickly cut a hole through the top of the banner (even though it has 3 layers of reinforcing!)
- **Do use** the 'big washer' system shown in the diagrams overleaf. This will give the bottom of the pole something to twist against and stop wear on the base and around the sides.

Protecting your banners:

- **Never** leave them out in strong winds. They are made of nylon and will shred themselves bare under the stress of strong winds even for a short period. Keep an eye on them during the day.
- **Many** of the seams and tails are single hemmed. This means that the open edges will fray but only so far...they will fray quite a lot in the first few days but no more after that.
- **Never** fold the banners up wet. It won't do them any harm but they will stink! Sand, on the other hand, will scratch them badly. Always brush or wash off any sand or dirt before storing.
- **Don't** expect miracles from your banners. 6 months of use is a *good* life span. If they are doing their job, they will generate many times their replacement cost for you in sales.

Your banner and your pole are made of high quality materials....ripstop nylon with reinforced pockets, wrapped fiberglass with protective tips.... But the very nature of there use makes them suseptable to damage. I've outlined on this sheet a few hints, rules and precautions that should help to extend their life.

