

# Basic Tie Down

## General

The basic tie-down can be used on wooden decks to help secure tables, chairs, or other items without damaging the deck itself. A pair of tie-downs will take approximately 30 minutes to make.



## Tools and equipment needed

- 2 x Everbilt 2-inch hitching ring with plate in zinc (1000772894 for \$7 approximately).
- 2 x Simpson strong tie (any length over 4 inches)
- Threaded steel rod.
- 2 x nuts to fit the steel rod.
- 1 x power drill with metal drill bit.
- 12 x 2" wood screws.
- 1 x 2" x 4" by any length of slightly over 4 feet.
- 1 x pencil or sharpie marker

## Method

1. Fasten the 2 x hitching rings at either end of the 2" x 4" with 4 x 2" wood screws. Leave approximately an inch of wood at the end.
2. On the opposite (underside) of the wood, fasten the first Simpson strong tie.
3. Lay the piece of wood on its side so that the first Simpson strong tie aligns with the gap between planks on the deck. Position the second and mark the location of the second

Simpson strong tie so that it will fit between planks. Ideally, you will have about 5 or 6 planks between the two strong ties.

4. Fasten the two Simpson strong ties using 2 x 2" screws each. Check to ensure that the Strong ties will fit between the planks. You should see the two ends of the strong ties protruding under the deck.
5. Check whether the threaded rod will fit through the holes in the strong tie. If not, drill the holes far enough to fit the rod through both strong ties. The rod will keep the tie down from being pulled up.
6. Fasten a nut on the outside of both strong ties (if it's too close, add a washer).

Repeat this for the second tie-down. All told, putting these together should take under 30 minutes.

### **How to Use**

With the two tie-downs on opposite sides of the objects, you're looking to tie down, run bungee cords across the items. Tighten down.

When you tighten the cargo straps, any slack under the deck can be picked up so that the ties are snug.

### **Variations**

There are a number of different variations that can be used, such as using screw eyes. I prefer the hitching ring because it has four points securing it to the wood whereas the screw eye has one. Depending on the wind and how well you tightened down, the screw eye can be worked loose over time (if too tight, it can pull the screw, if too loose, the shocks can work it loose).

I have seen this done with bungee cords but am always a little bit leery that a strong wind can stretch the cord, allowing the things that are tied to shift. The cargo strap doesn't allow this.

### **Total cost:**

- Hitching rings: \$28 (for four)
- Strong ties: \$28 (for four)
- Cargo straps: \$14 (2 pack)

If you are using a reasonably good piece of pressure treated wood, you should be able to get 5-6 seasons out of these things before the wood might need to be replaced.