

"ASK LANDMARK" GUIDE TO **BALLASTS**



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Made of heavy materials like sand and concrete, ballasts provide weight and stability to help anchor your custom inflatable safely in its place.



WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

How do you choose the right ballasts for your project?

Consult a structural engineering firm or a local ballast supplier. At Landmark, we've worked successfully with a number of reputable companies, including:

- Warning Lites, our go-to firm for renting and purchasing PDI blocks (see <https://www.warninglitesmn.com/traffic-control-rental-and-sales>)
- Tent Wares, a great source for tent stakes and concrete blocks (see tentwares.com/catalog-item/installation-tent-ballast-system/)
- American Tent, our preferred source for Giffy Ballasts (durable plastic water barrels; see americantent.com/products/giffy-ballasts-4-pack)
- Global Industrial, a trusted supplier of barricades (see globalindustrial.com/g/safety/crowd-control/barricades-barriers/safety-poly-barricade)
- Wake Makers, our main source for 850-lb. ballast bags (<https://www.wakemakers.com/straight-line-sumo-max-850-ballast-bag.html>)

What's more, Landmark can provide ballast covers that match or complement your inflatable. That way, your entire installation will have an "on-brand" professional look.

Ballasts come in all shapes, sizes, and varieties. You can choose something as simple as tent stakes or as complex as customized weights built into your display's internal trusswork.

Other possibilities include:

- Free weights
- Sandbags
- Concrete blocks and barricades
- PDI blocks – lighter and more aesthetically pleasing than concrete – made of resilient plastic with interior water chambers
- Water-filled plastic barrels
- Even stationary vehicles!

What Should You Do in High Wind?

Even when braced by ballasts, standard inflatables won't withstand gale-force winds. We recommend taking down or deflating all inflatables when the wind reaches 25 miles per hour and/or when severe weather approaches.

For larger inflatable shapes and/or complex rigging outdoors, we recommend contracting with an engineering firm to create a High Wind Action Plan (HWAP).

This detailed document provides specific directives to ensure your inflatable is installed and used safely. HWAPs typically range between \$3,000-\$5,000.



You can contract your HWAP directly with an engineering firm of your choice. Or, if you prefer, you can have Landmark hire and work with the firm. This provides two advantages:

- We'll take care of all the hassles and headaches.
- Our design/production team will communicate directly – back and forth – with the HWAP team to plan shape/pick points for the inflatable.

In the past, we've worked successfully with respected structural engineering firms such as McLaren Engineering Group (www.mgmclaren.com/) and Theta Consulting, LLC (theta-consulting.com). Both are highly recommended.

How Much Weight Do You Need to Hold Down Your Custom Inflatable?

- Standard (15-20 ft) shapes - 800 to 1,000 lbs. per corner.
- Tents or Domes - 1,200 lbs. per corner.

