eTech 'n' Stuff

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Garden Windmill & Weathervane Newsletter

The garden and college windmills are made by a small company in a small town in Iowa. A few years ago the Chinese copied this windmill and began to manufacturer and market the copy.

The copy is not anywhere close to the originals that are made in the USA. The metal is lighter, the wheel is not balanced and instead of being welded the blades are just tack welded. The end result is the Chinese copy will fail often within a matter of just a few months.

Here is a recent comment from one customer.

"*My new windmill I ordered from you arrived the other day. I have assembled and installed it in the yard. I have to say I can tell the difference in the quality of your item vs. A similar windmills that I have. The material seems to be heavier gauge, definitely heavier overall once I got it together and carried both around during the installation.*

I didn't know the difference at the time I purchased my first windmill. Just after a couple of years, the ball bearings fell out of the wheel, a blade broke off, and now the shaft wobbles in the mast head. The stand is painted vs. galvanized and is already chipping.

R Payne - MN"

The eight foot windmills that are seen all over the internet and also in a number of "big box" stores are the cheap Chinese copy.

The owner of the Iowa company and of course his employees are very appreciative of every single one of their windmills that are

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sold. The survival of the company and the ability of their employees to maintain their jobs is directly dependant on people like you purchasing these windmills.

The bottom line is you will be paying more for the Made in Iowa windmill. What you will be getting is a much better product and you are helping keep some Americans working at the same time.

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Special points of interest:

- *Garden Windmills*
- *Windmill mounting*
- *Do it Your Self windmill mount*
- *Privacy Policy*

Some thoughts on mounting the windmills

The first thing to know about the eight foot garden windmills is you will need a good solid foundation.

The windmills come with ground stakes and while these do work they tend to loosen and so may need to be pulled out and re driven into the ground from time to time. The way to check is to see if the windmill tower will wobble. If it does you will need to pull out the ground stakes and move the windmill to where you can re drive the stakes in new soil. How often you will need to move the windmill depends on your soil type and ground moisture.

A far better way to mount the windmill with cement. A cement pad of course will work well. You can use concrete anchors on already existing cement pads or you can put threaded anchors into freshly poured cement. In future newsletters I will be discussing cement anchors that work well.

If you are considering adding the 2 foot extension to a standard eight foot windmill you must mount the windmill to something very solid. Cement is the best. The 2 foot extension puts a lot more force on the tower base. The ground stakes will not be able to hold a windmill with the extension kit.

An important thing to know is however you choose to mount the windmill it must be level. The easiest way to see if the windmill is level is to place a short level on each of the four lowest cross pieces. If you are using the included ground stakes you may have to dig in the legs on one side. Make certain that when the tower is level all four legs are in firm contact with the ground. Drive in the stakes and recheck to make certain it remains level.

Inside this issue:

A Do it yourself way to mount an eight foot windmill

Here are some details that one customer used to mount his eight foot windmill. This technique will also work well with the 2 foot extension kit.

There are cardboard forms available at the big box home and garden stores. They come in several different sizes. A 6 inch or 8 inch cardboard form will work.

Start with finding a good location for your windmill in your yard or garden. You will need at the very least a 2 foot by 2 foot space for the base. The tail is 30 inches from the pivot point so you will need a location where the tail can swing a full 360 degrees without hitting anything. Take into consideration if trees or shrubs can be blown into the wheel or tail when the winds are high.

You will need to dig four holes for each of the four cardboard tubes, 18 - 24 inches below ground should be enough.

The way to spot where to dig the holes is to take a couple of 2X4s and cut them to 34 inches. Bolt them together at the center - make certain the angle is 90 degrees. The 2X4s will look like an X - the tips of these 2X4s are where the CENTER of the forms will need to go. Measure the distance between each of the four forms. The center needs to be 24 inches on each side. (this is for the standard 8 foot windmill. - with the two foot extension the distances change.)

Put the tube forms in place and make certain they are level with where ever you want the cement to end. You can use the same 2X4 X to get these level.

The are several products out there one being Kwickcrete where you just add water and mix and pour into the forms. No cement truck or cement mixer needed. You will need a pan or tray and a rake or shovel to mix this. Kwickcrete is fairly easy to use and there are videos up on You Tube to show you how to work with this product. The main thing is to make certain you have the forms where you want them, the tops set to the correct height and that they are level with each other.

Next make certain the forms will not move. Loosely backfilling works the best to stabilize the forms.

Mix up the Kwickcrete and pour it into the forms. Smooth the top. A short 2X4 works if you want a rough finish. If you want a smooth finish you will need a cement trowel.

Once the cement has began to set up a little put the four bolts or threaded rods in. Make certain these rods or bolts are exactly where you want them. In the installation you see in the photo this customer has placed the bolts in the center of the forms and the legs go inside the bolts. (this means he used a 35 or 36 inch 2X4 X to lay it out. It appears that he is using around 25 inches on each side for the bolts and has the windmill legs inside.

He has made some angle iron brackets to bolt to the windmill frame and has drilled them to fit the bolts he has in the cement.

New to this newsletter?

Thank you for subscribing to this news letter. I put a newsletter together from time to time and you will send you each new addition directly to your email address. Also I have a blog site located at

http://www.etechnstuff.com/ebay-drop-off/

where I place more information about the windmills and the weathervanes. Of course my main site:

www.etechnstuff.com

has more information about my store and will link to my eBay store, my windmill and weathervane site and my blog site. The windmills and weathervanes are at:

www.yardgardenwindmill.com

Which is where you requested this newsletter from.

A quick word about privacy

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If you have information or topics that you would like me to cover in this news letter email me and let me know. If you have photos or information about windmills and or weathervanes please send them to me so I can share with subscribers. Again thank you for your interest.

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