

Caterpillar Tunnel Instructions

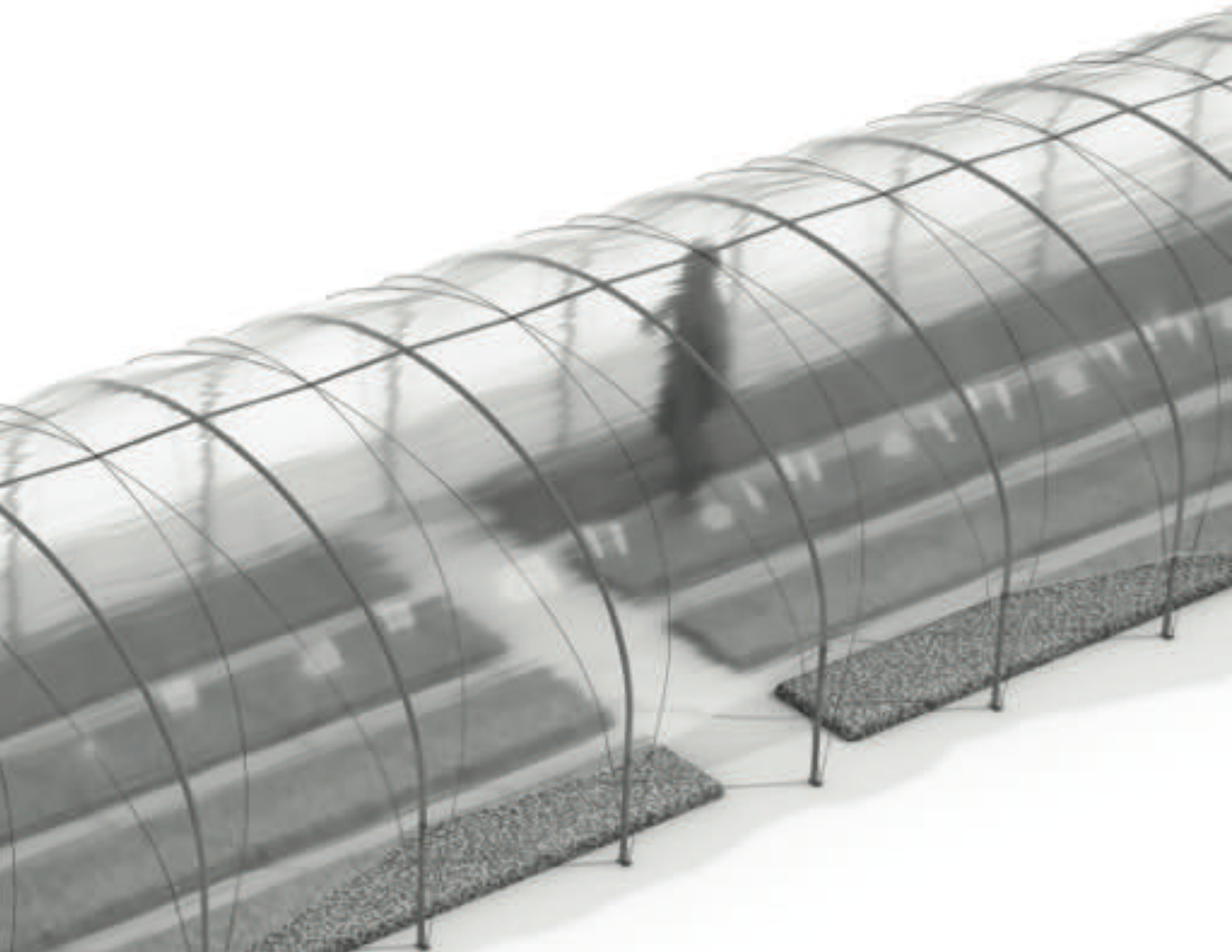


CATERPILLARTUNNELS.CO



Caterpillar Tunnel Instructions

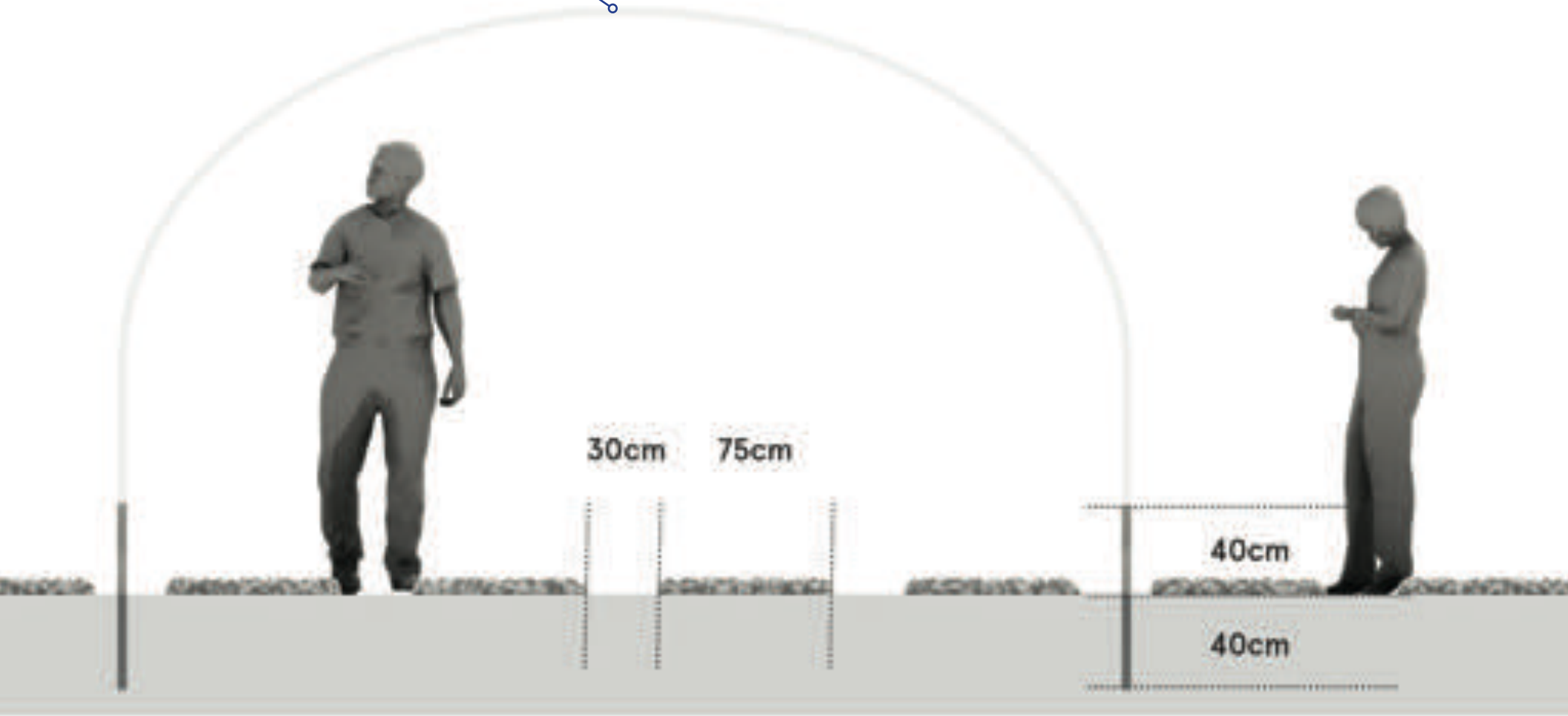
Required Components	Caterpillar tunnel Length			
	20m	30m	40m	50m
4.26m Hoop (35mm diameter)	14	21	28	35
9m wide polytunnel Polythene	28	38	48	58
Corner Stabiliser 160cm x 25mm (flattened both ends)	8	8	8	8
(For consise end) 35mm x 45cm	4	4	4	4
‘Q’ Clips (35mm) x 8	3	3	3	3
Stainless Steel Bracket (Bottom Plate)	28	42	56	70
Sliding wire Adjustment Clip (holds up plastic)	28	42	56	70
Carabiner (6 x 60mm)	28	42	56	70
4mm Burgee Cord 200m Rolls	1	2	2	3
Poly Webbing 100m	1	1	0	0
Cambuckle 25mm	2	2	0	0
Tek Screws (self-tapping)	42	63	84	105
Tek Screw Driver	1	1	1	1
Ridge Section 150cm x 25mm	1	1	1	1
Ridge Section with Swage Joint 150cm x 25mm	12	19	26	32
Ridge Clamps 35mm x 25mm	7	11	14	18



SETTING UP A CATERPILLAR TUNNEL

Hoops for all caterpillar tunnels are 4.26m wide, covering 4 x 75cm beds when using 30cm paths.

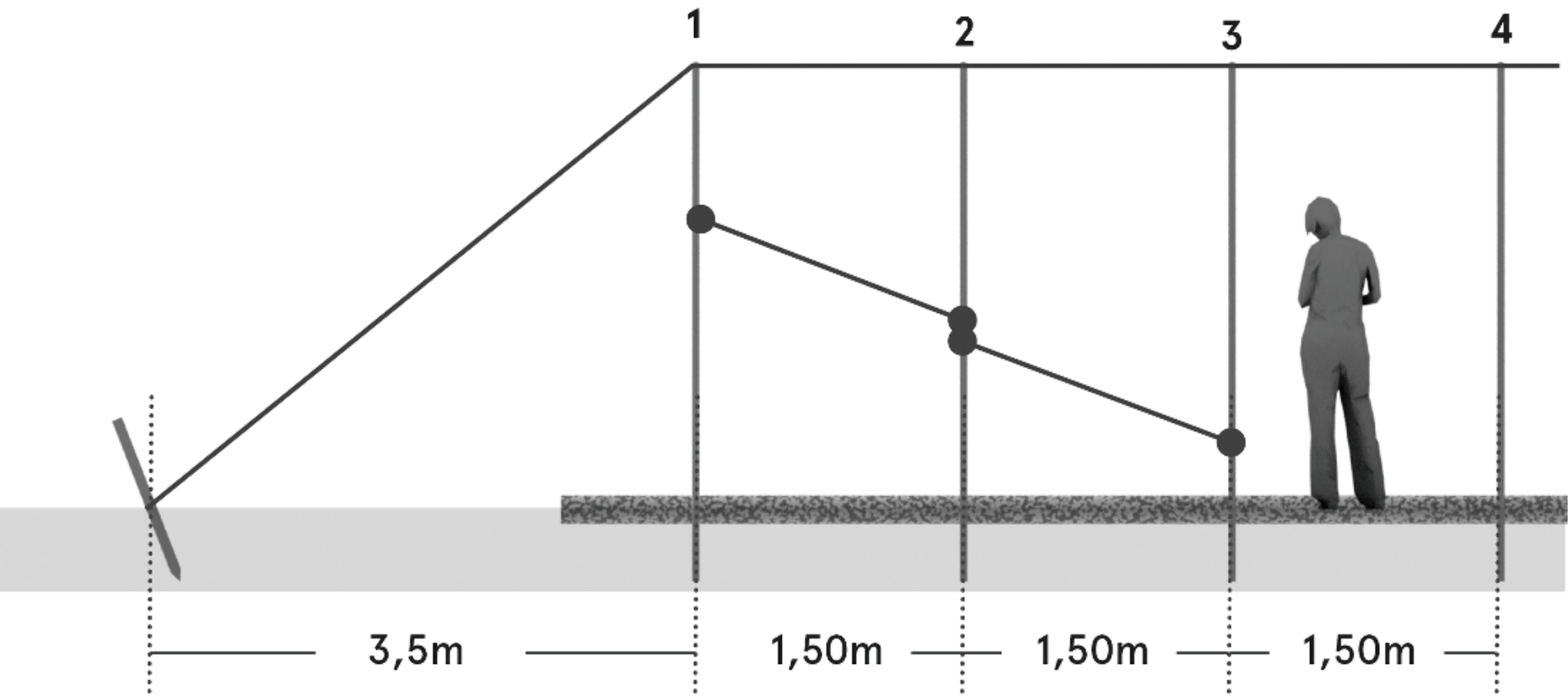
Assemble hoops using supplied TEK screws. These are self-tapping, meaning no predrilling is required.



DECIDE IF YOU ARE USING A STANDARD END

PLEASE NOTE IF USING STANDARD ENDS:

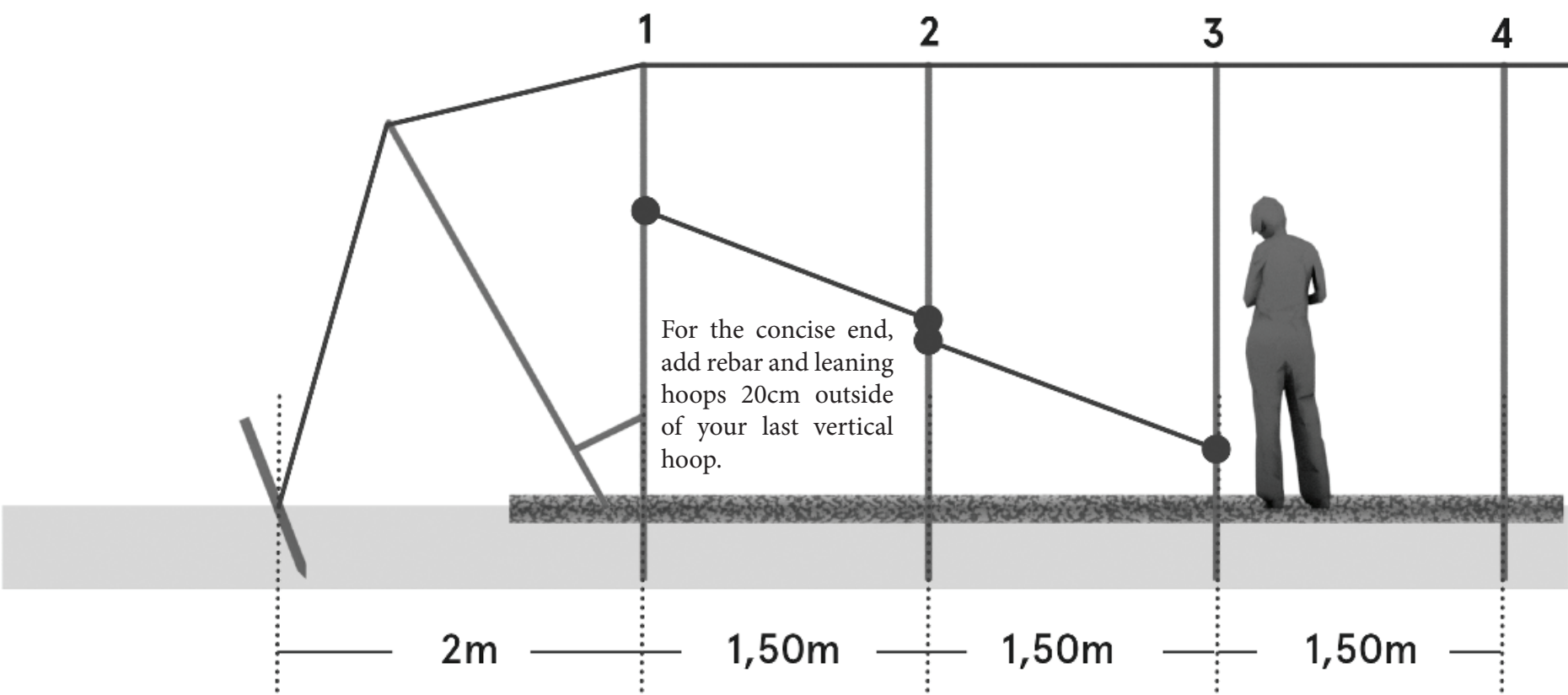
The 20m tunnel will work out at 19.5m from end hoop to end hoop, 26.5m in total.
The 40m tunnel will work out at 40.5m from end hoop to end hoop, 47.5m in total.
The 50m tunnel will work out at 51m from end hoop to end hoop, 58m in total.
If you'd like to shorten the tunnel you can either move some of the interior hoops closer together or remove a hoop completely.



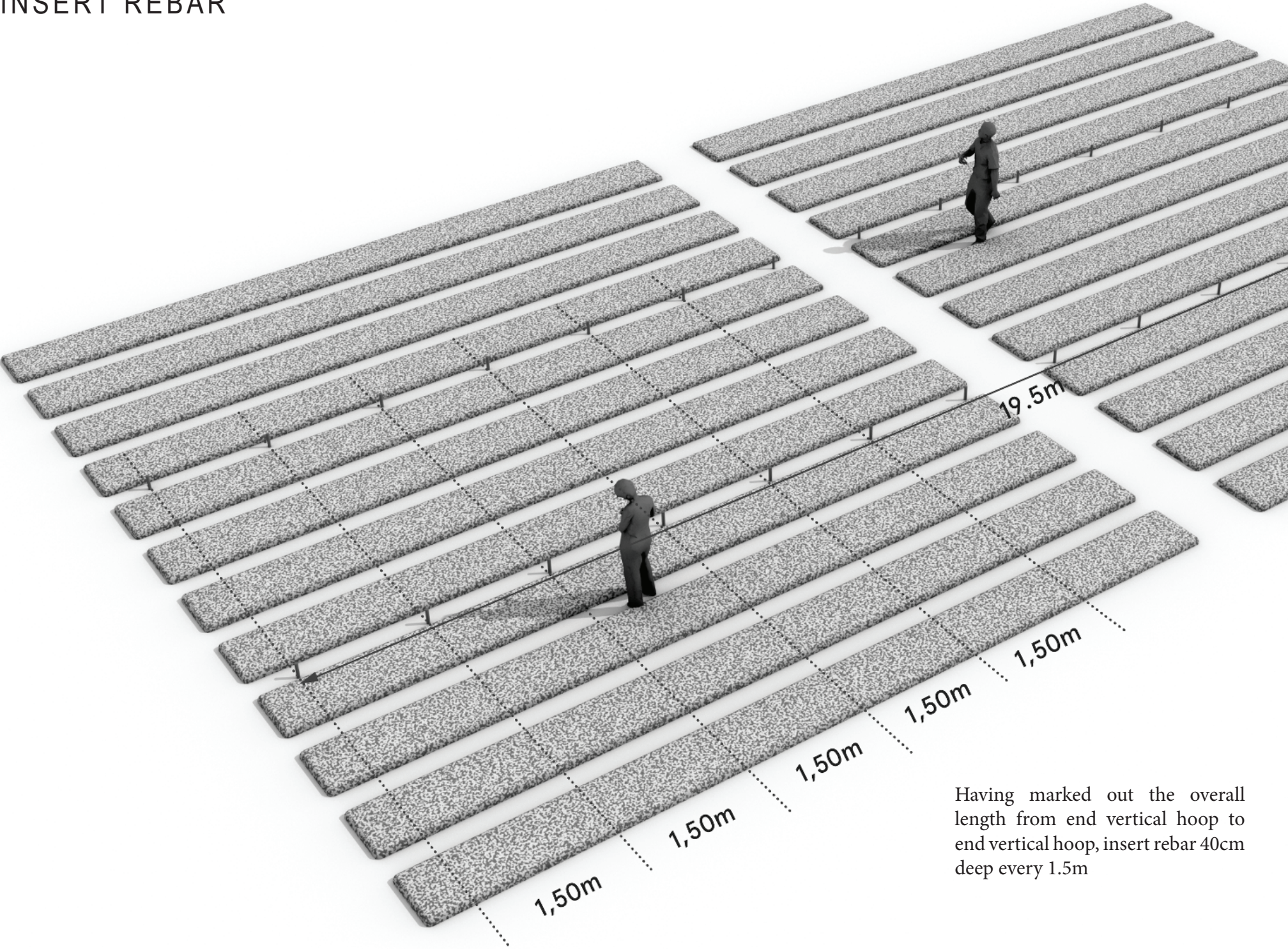
OR CONCISE END FOR TIGHTER SPACES

PLEASE NOTE IF USING CONCISE ENDS:

In this arrangement, 2 of the hoops are used to make the concise ends.
The 20m tunnel will work out at 18m from end vertical hoop to end vertical hoop, 22m in total.
The 40m tunnel will work out at 39m from end vertical hoop to end vertical hoop, 43m in total.
The 50m tunnel will work out at 49.5m from end vertical hoop to end vertical hoop, 53.5m in total.
If you'd like to shorten the tunnel you can either move some of the interior hoops closer together or remove a hoop completely.



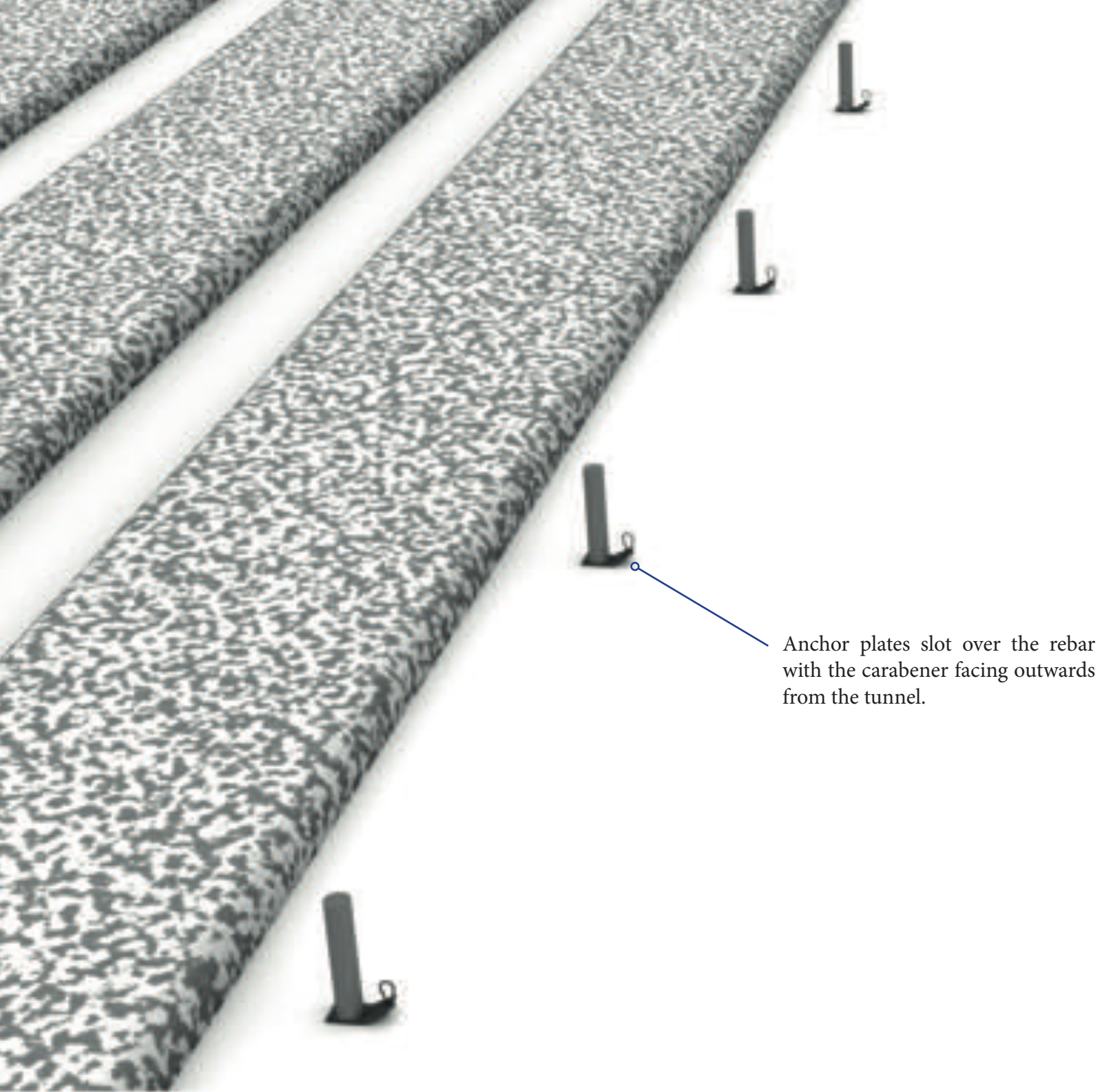
INSERT REBAR



Having marked out the overall length from end vertical hoop to end vertical hoop, insert rebar 40cm deep every 1.5m

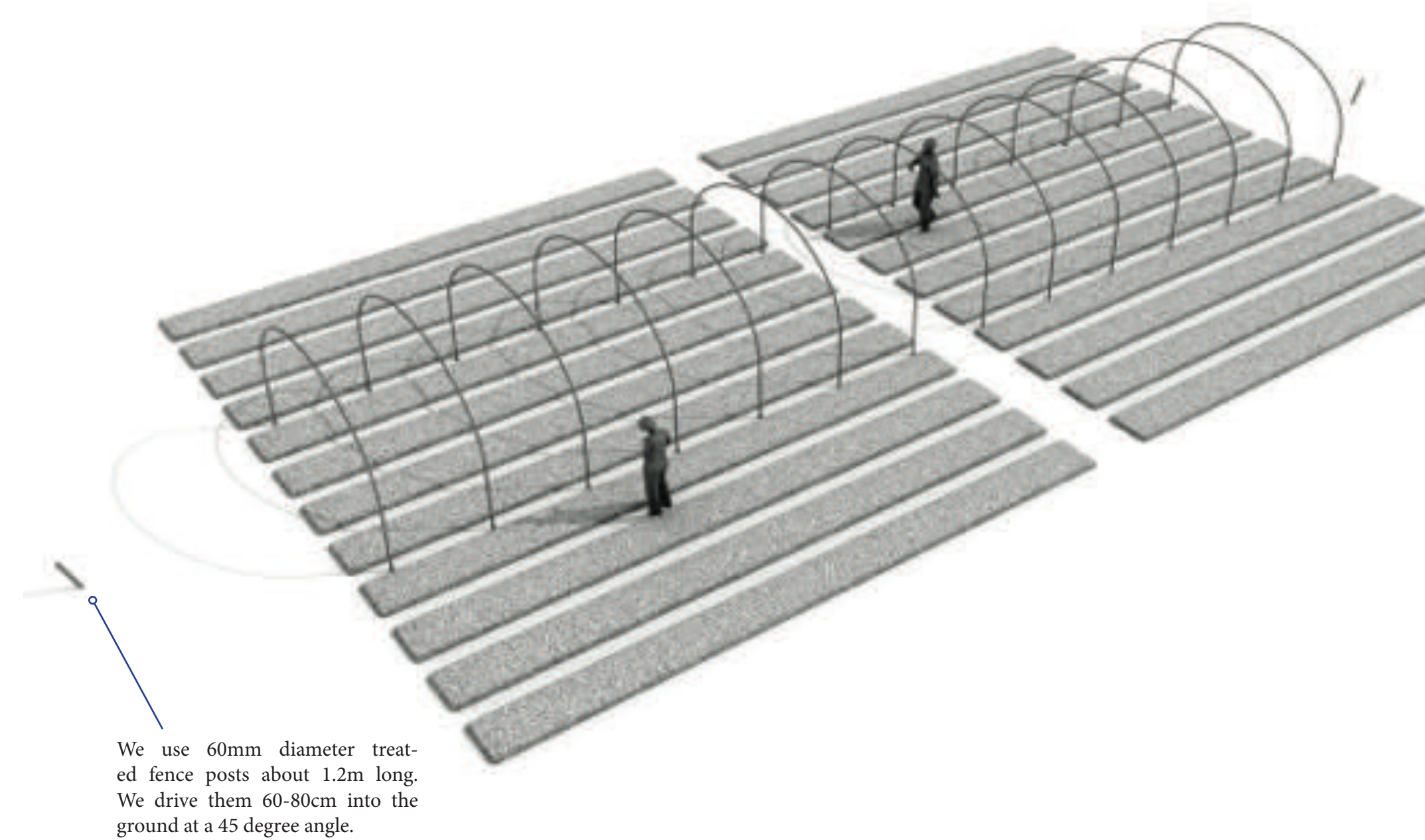
ADD ANCHOR PLATES / CARABENERS ON EACH REBAR





Anchor plates slot over the rebar with the carabener facing outwards from the tunnel.

LIFT ASSEMBLED HOOPS ONTO REBAR, AND DRIVE IN ANCHOR POSTS

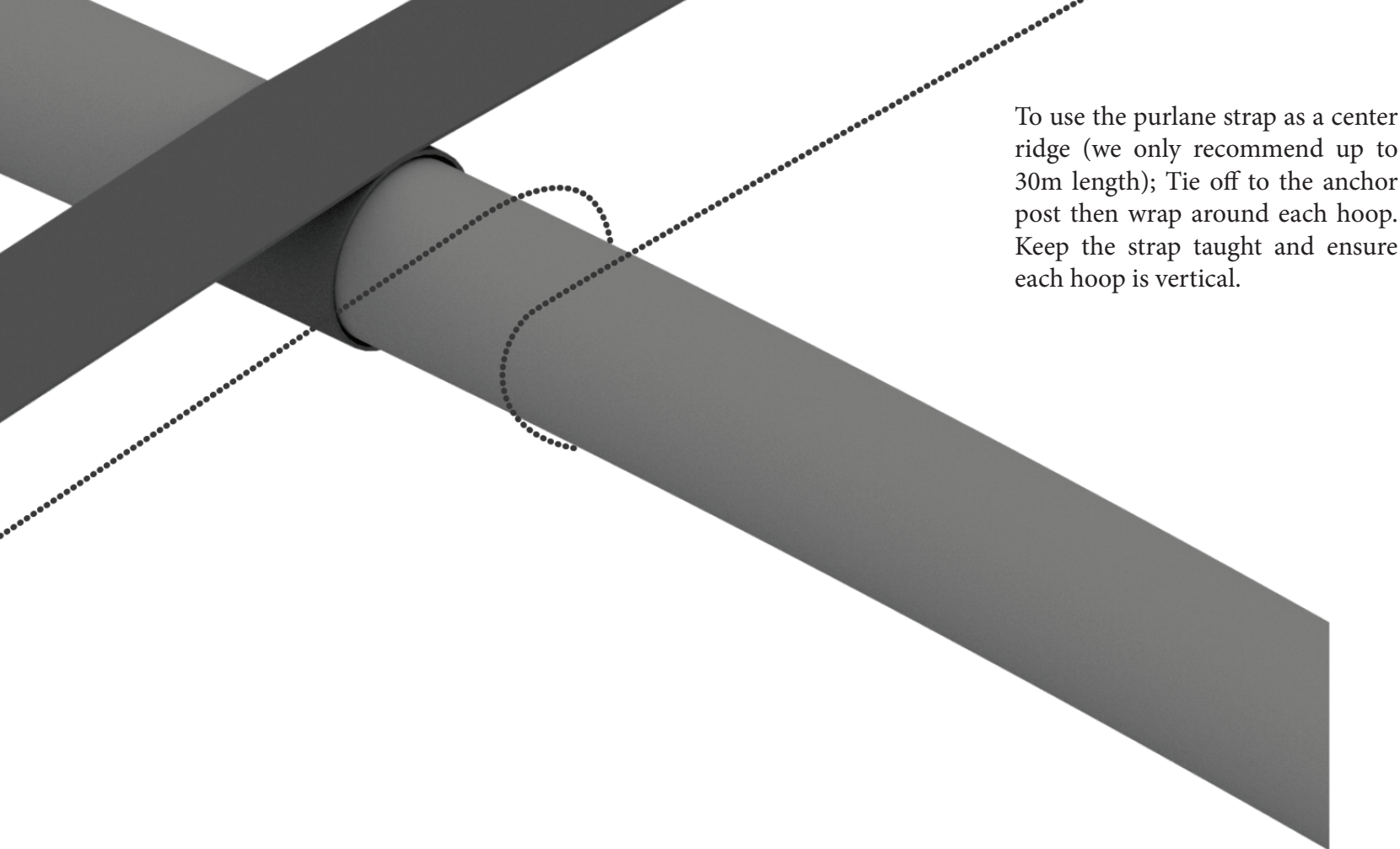


We use 60mm diameter treated fence posts about 1.2m long. We drive them 60-80cm into the ground at a 45 degree angle.

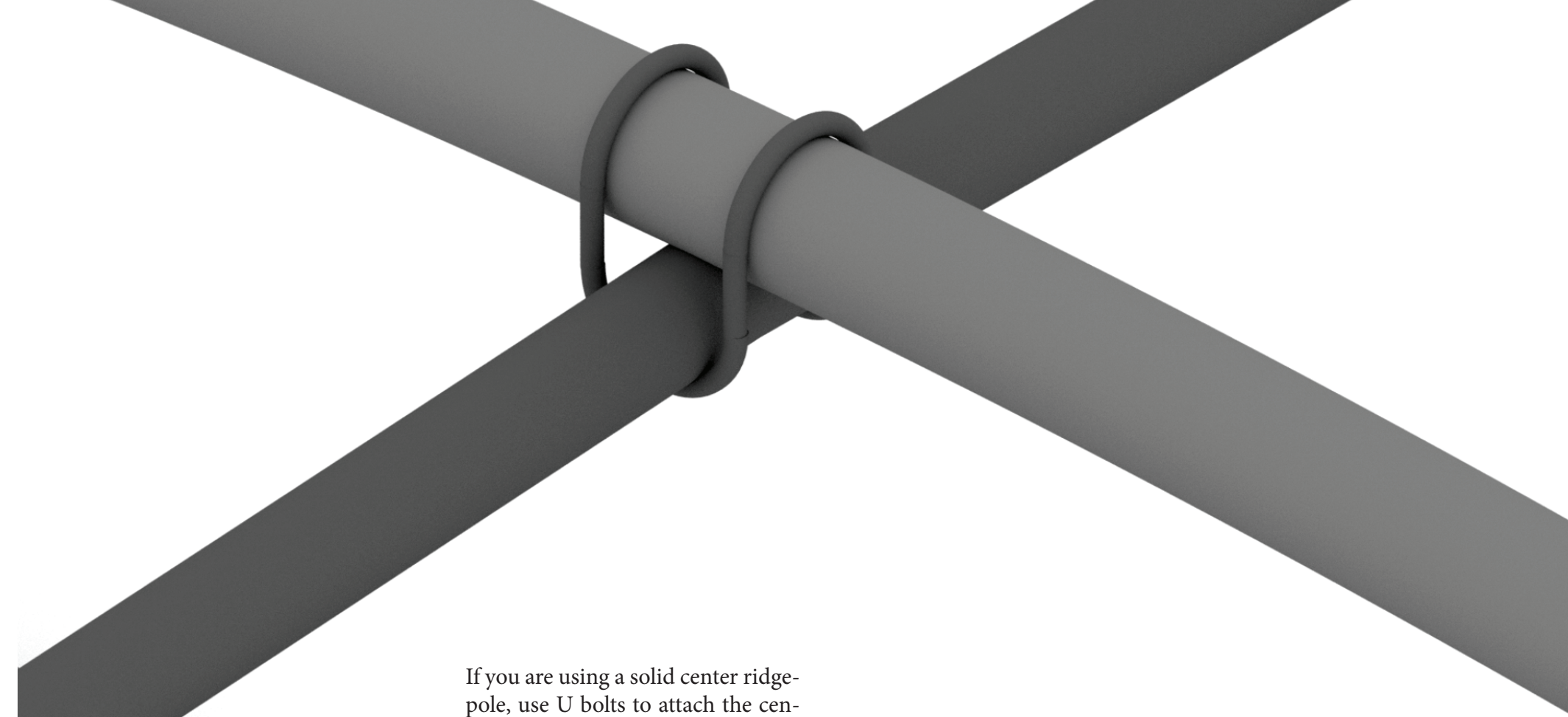
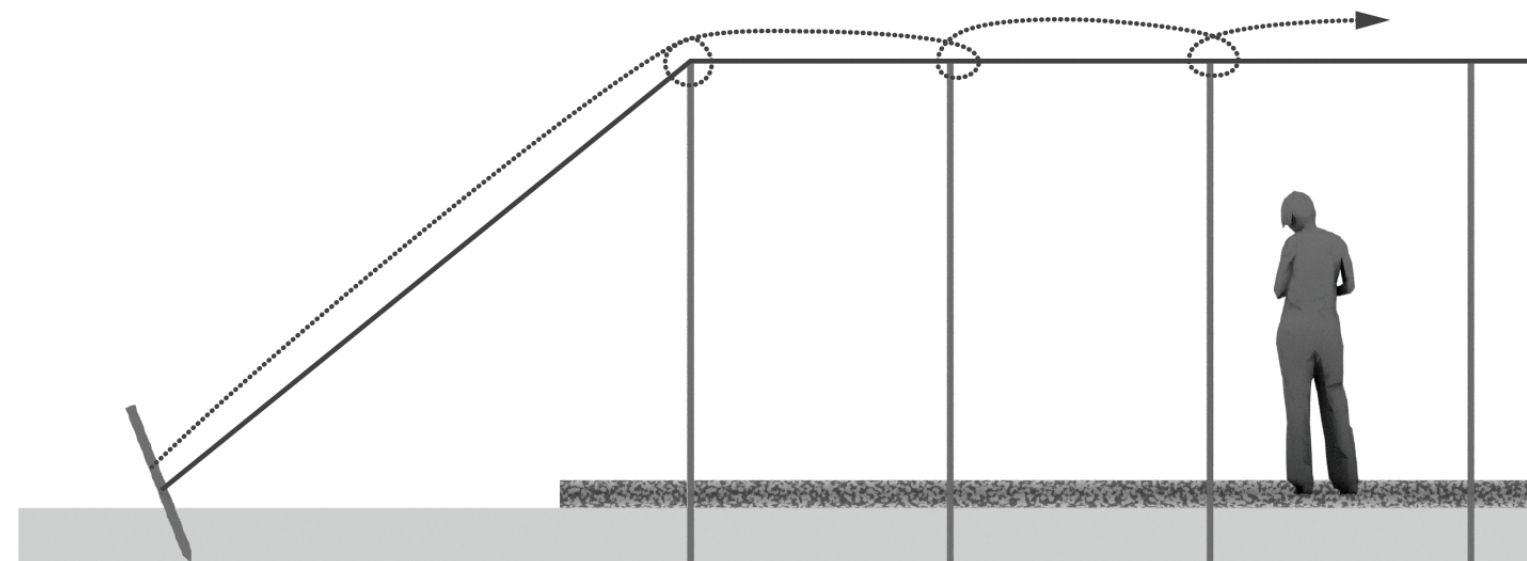
ATTACH THE WIND BRACES

Use the supplied Q clips and nuts/
bolts to secure these in place.

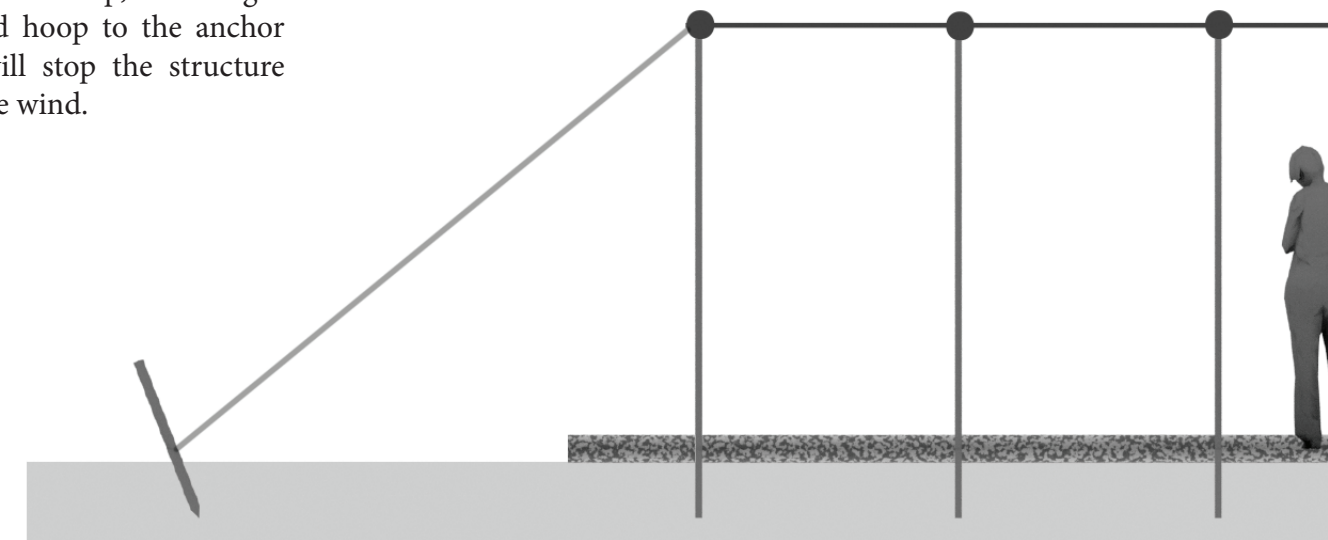




To use the purlane strap as a center ridge (we only recommend up to 30m length); Tie off to the anchor post then wrap around each hoop. Keep the strap taught and ensure each hoop is vertical.



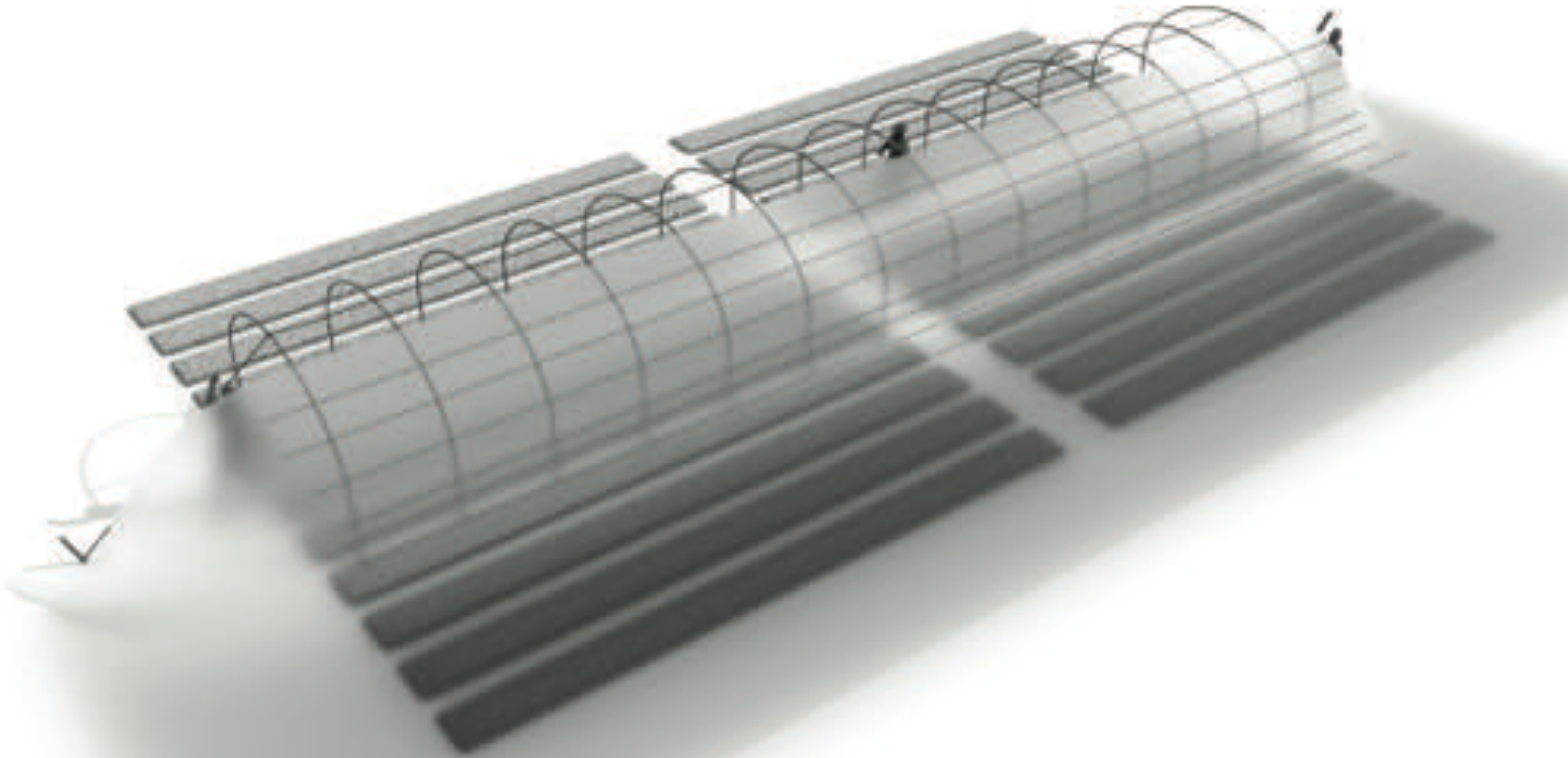
If you are using a solid center ridge-pole, use U bolts to attach the center pole to each hoop. Using the supplied purlane strap, tie a length from the end hoop to the anchor post. This will stop the structure moving in the wind.



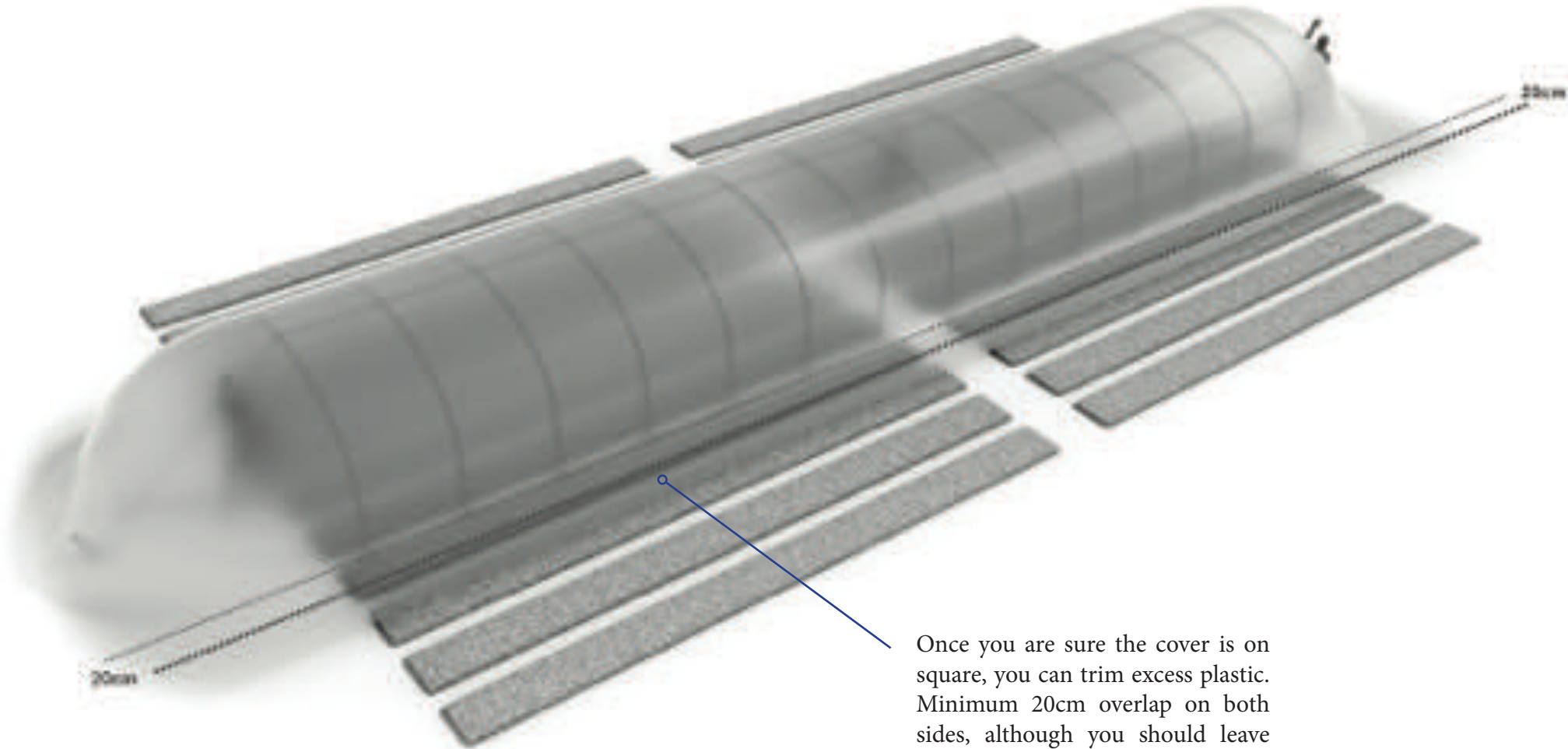
ADD THE COVER

NOTE: Not recommended in windy weather.

Roll out the plastic alongside the tunnel frame being very careful to avoid puncturing. Pull over the cover with several people. Use the creases in the plastic to help ensure you end up with the plastic square to the tunnel.

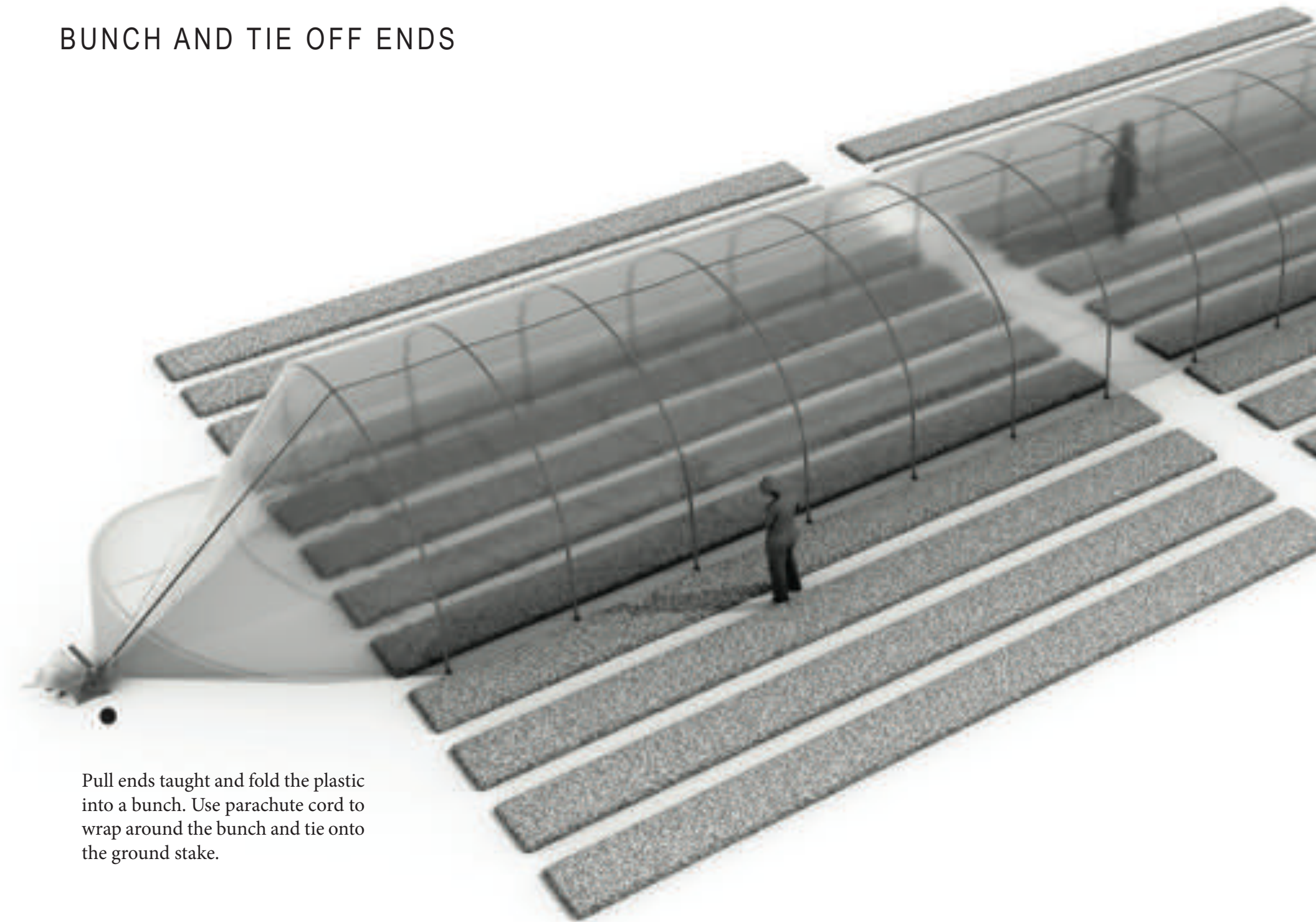


TRIM EXCESS PLASTIC



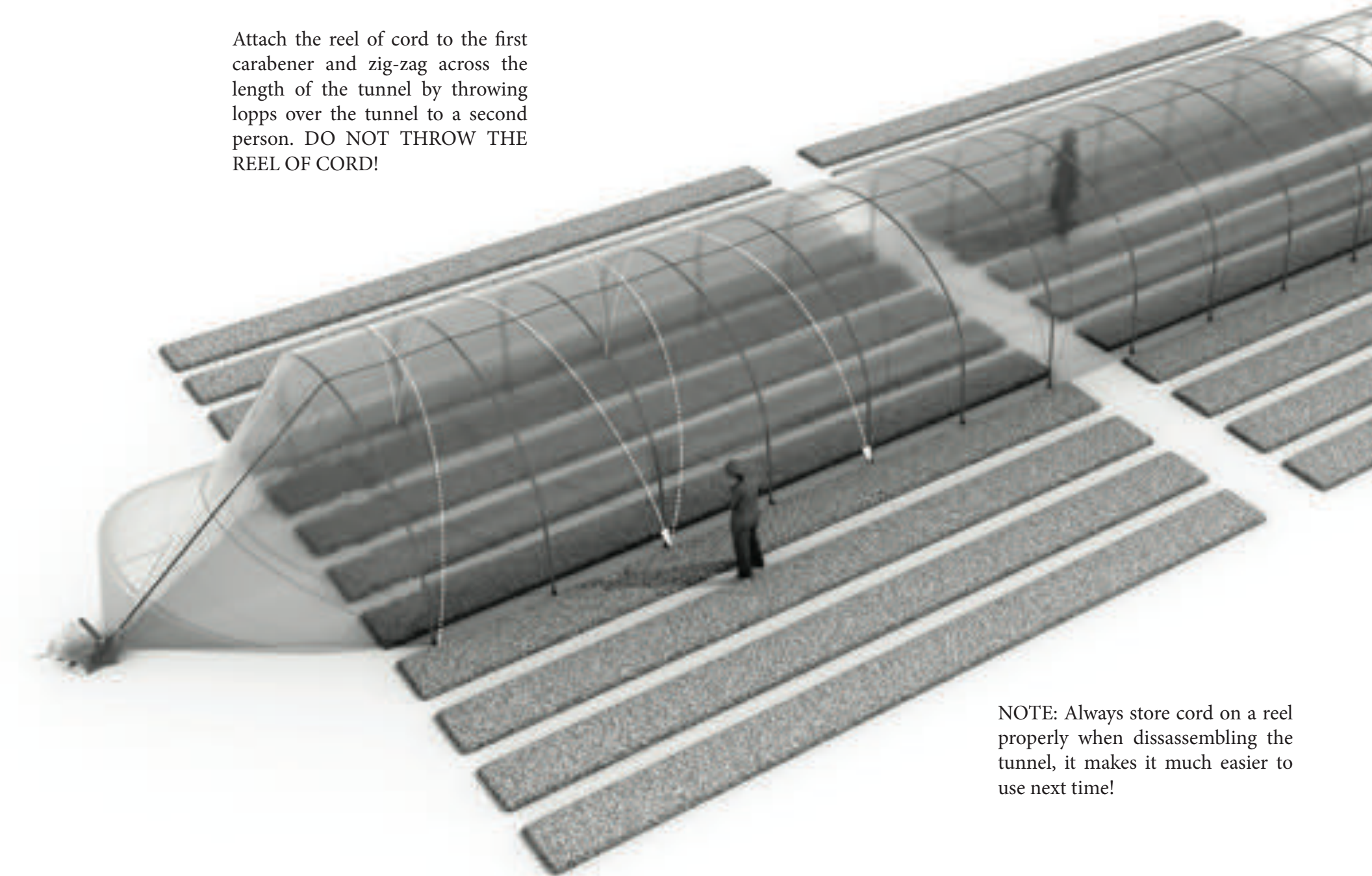
Once you are sure the cover is on square, you can trim excess plastic. Minimum 20cm overlap on both sides, although you should leave 40cm on both sides if you wish to use sand bags to protect the tunnel in high winds.

BUNCH AND TIE OFF ENDS



Pull ends taught and fold the plastic into a bunch. Use parachute cord to wrap around the bunch and tie onto the ground stake.

START TYING DOWN THE COVER



Attach the reel of cord to the first carabener and zig-zag across the length of the tunnel by throwing lopps over the tunnel to a second person. DO NOT THROW THE REEL OF CORD!

NOTE: Always store cord on a reel properly when disassembling the tunnel, it makes it much easier to use next time!

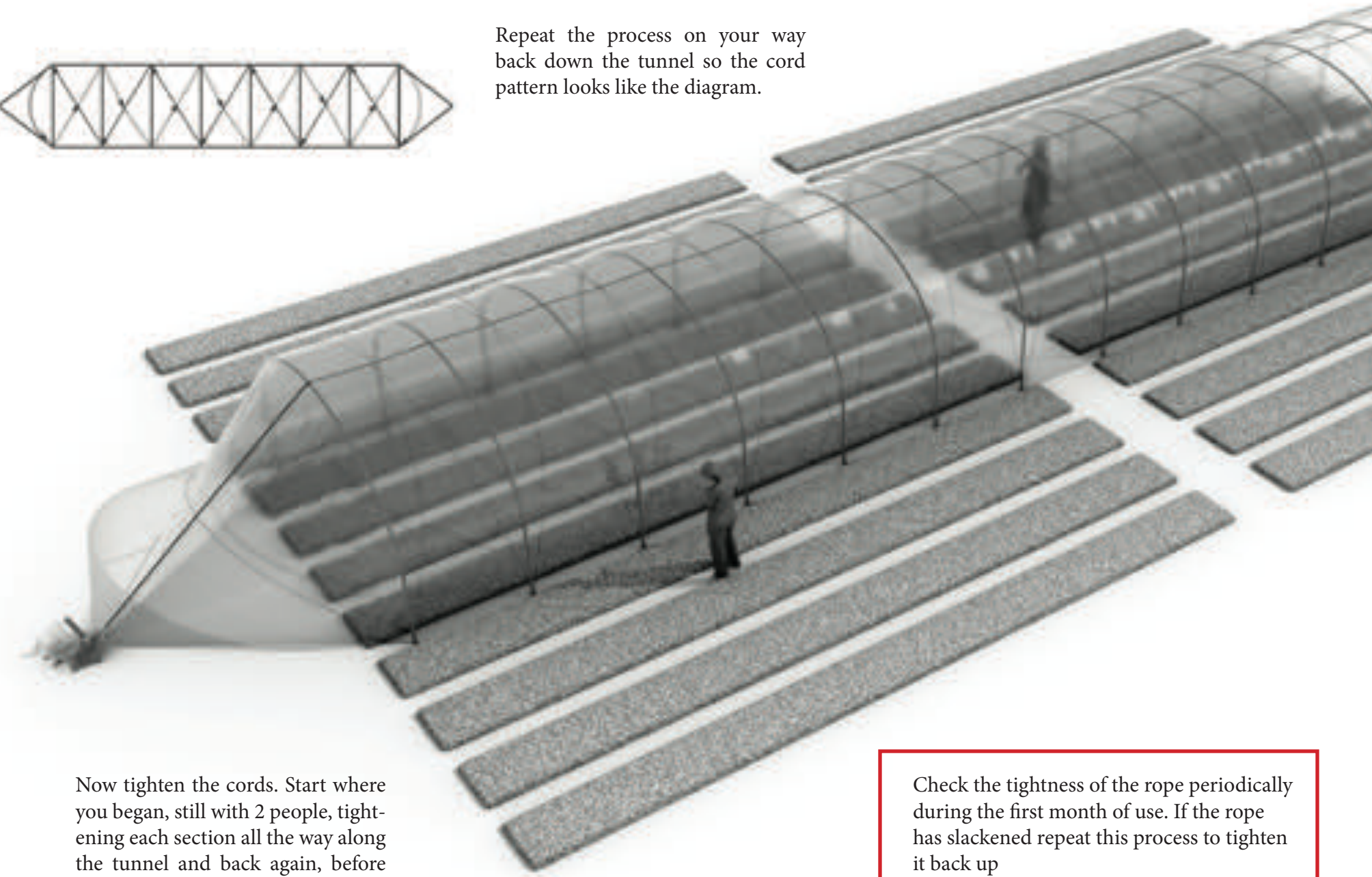


Clip the cord into alternate carabiners until you reach the end of the tunnel.



Repeat the process on your way back down the tunnel so the cord pattern looks like the diagram.

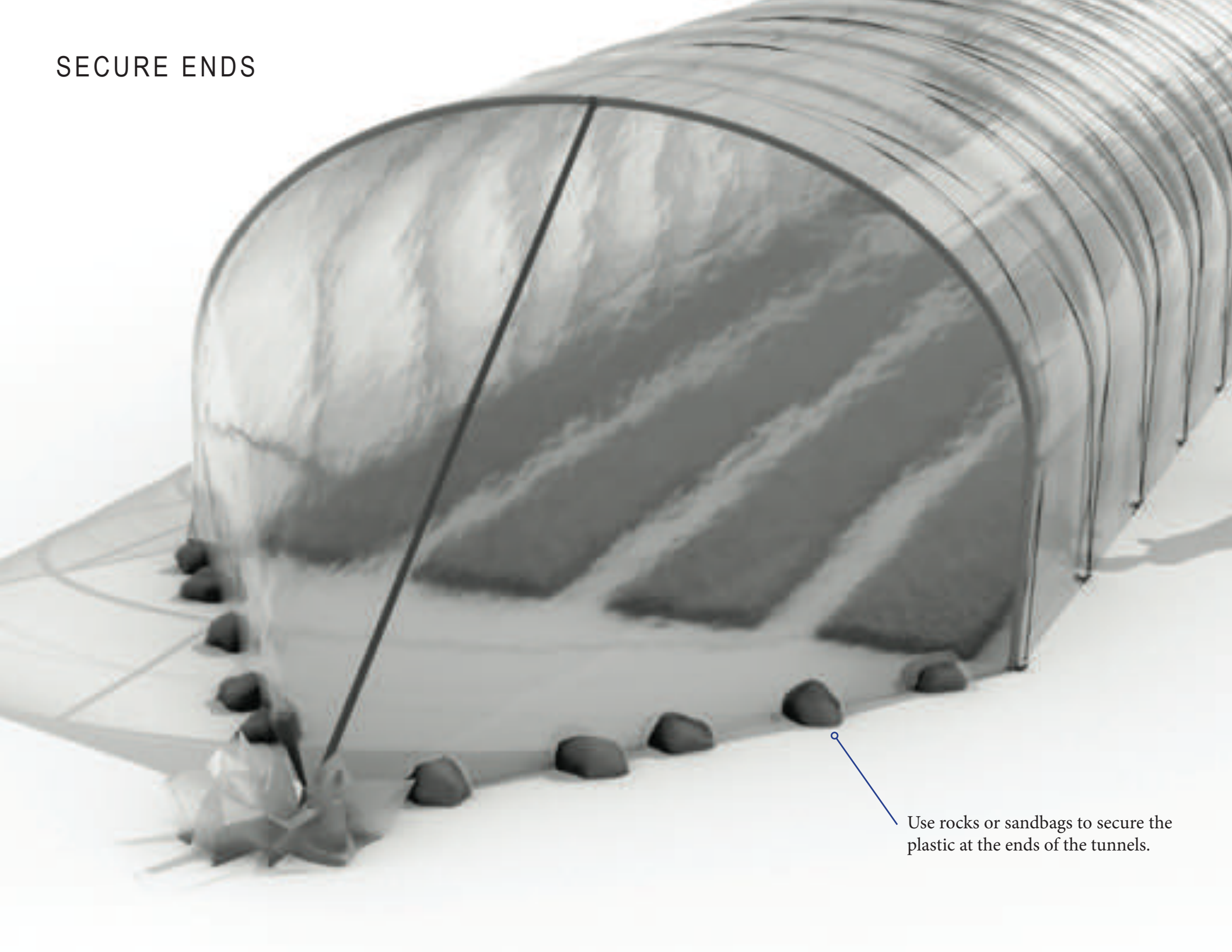
COME BACK THE OTHER WAY



Now tighten the cords. Start where you began, still with 2 people, tightening each section all the way along the tunnel and back again, before tying off when the cord is tight.

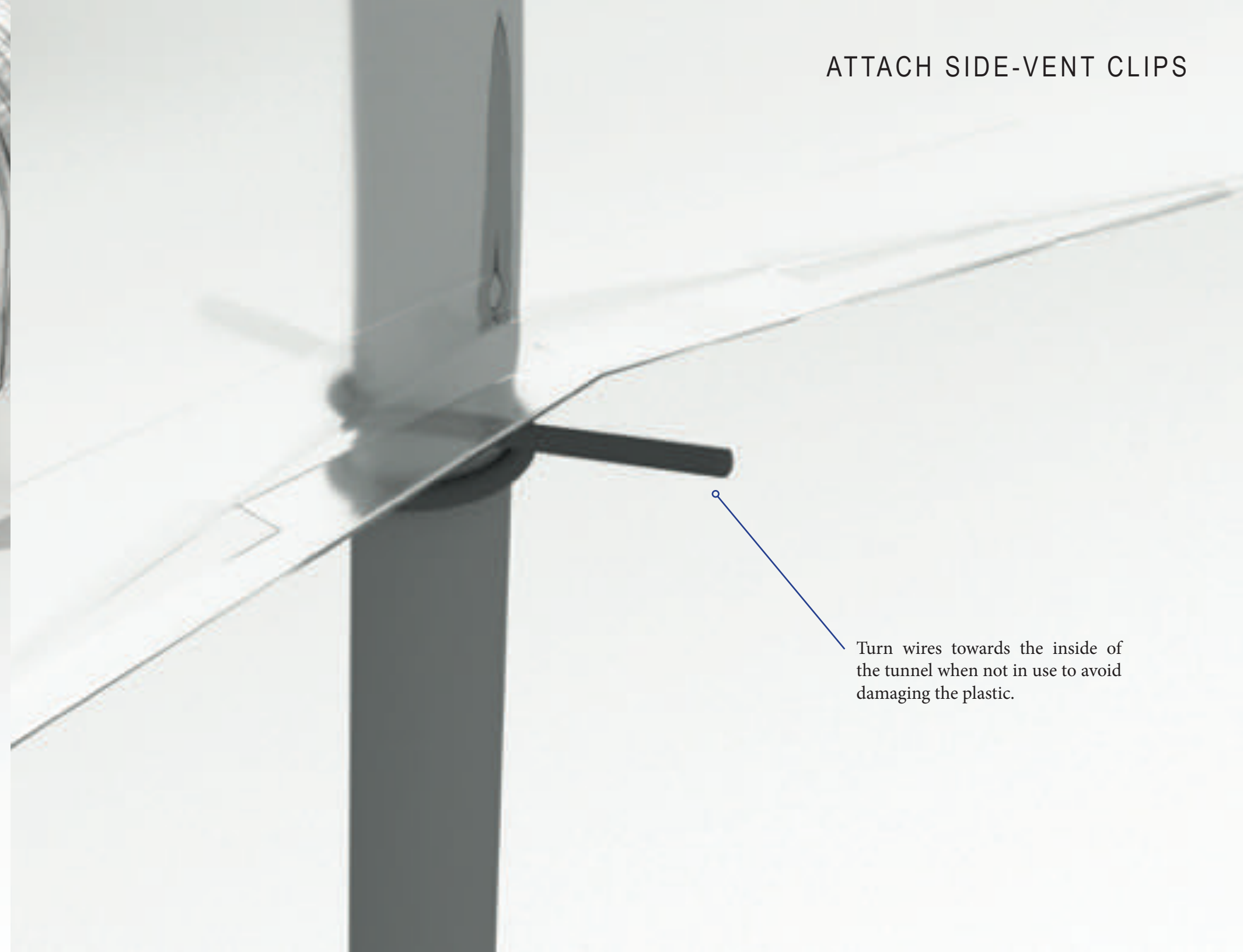
Check the tightness of the rope periodically during the first month of use. If the rope has slackened repeat this process to tighten it back up

SECURE ENDS



Use rocks or sandbags to secure the plastic at the ends of the tunnels.

ATTACH SIDE-VENT CLIPS



Turn wires towards the inside of the tunnel when not in use to avoid damaging the plastic.

LIFT THE SIDES EVENLY ALONG TUNNEL TO VENT

HAPPY GROWING!

