

# Hurley-Byrd's Free Standing Covered Deer Feeder Set-up Instructions - Important: Read Before Assembly



Setting up your Covered Deer Feeder is fairly straight forward. You are assembling the feeder shown to the left and it is a lot easier than it appears. In some ways, you will complete the building of the feeder. So, get your woodworker's cap on and let's start.

The first thing to do is unpack the box and set everything out so you can see what is what. Enclosed is a corresponding Wood Component listing outlining the various components and a Hardware Components listing for the hardware. Familiarize yourself with the various parts, bolts, etc....

To begin, assemble the foot-diagonal-leg assembly. For each leg assembly, set out one foot, two diagonals, one lower leg and one upper leg.



Photo to the right shows what is needed while using 2 1/2" bolts for this assembly. **Note:** The Diagonals are listed as lefts and rights. What makes a left and right is the rough side of the lumber and the location of the bolt holes. Take a look and feel the diagonals. You will find one side is rough. The smooth side of the diagonal faces outward for a more pleasing visual effect. Now, look carefully at the bolt holes in the photo. You will see the holes are offset differently from one end in comparison to the other. The hole which is furthest away from its corresponding end is the hole that aligns with the foot's hole. You will find in the package two left and two right diagonals and each leg gets one of each.



Take a good look at the photo to the left to see how the lumber pieces get layered correctly. The photo shows a completed leg section with the outside facing out. The layering goes as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> layer - Lower Leg, 2<sup>nd</sup> layer - Foot and Upper Leg, 3<sup>rd</sup> layer - Diagonals. As you layer up the pieces you need to make a choice to which height you want the roof. You have three choices, high, medium and low. The three photos at the top of the next page show how the upper legs move up and down to set the roof-to-trough clearance. We suggest starting with a high clearance until you know who is visiting your feeders. Once the bucks have dropped their antlers, lower the roof for better feed protection.

**NOTE:** Around September, deer antlers harden and it may be best for all involved to remove the roof. If your “Big Buck” gets his head stuck in the feeder..... trust us, the deer will win the battle and your feeder will get damaged. If your deer gets caught up in the roof, he actually becomes scared and will bolt forward while thrashing at the feeder. Although this only happens very rarely, it is a possibility. Usually, a buck will not stick his headgear into anything that he feels he cannot get it out of. If you remove your roof for fall, you will be able to replace it once antler drop has occurred. This varies by location, time of year and many other factors.

Left Photo - High 22” clearance, Middle Photo - Med. 19” clearance, Right Photo - Low 16” clearance.



Now that you have chosen a roof height, layered the upper leg on top of the lower leg while aligning their bolt holes, complete the leg section by installing the following 5 bolts: Foot to diagonals, diagonals to upper and lower legs and the lower leg to foot. Install washers and wingnuts but leave slightly loose. Complete the other leg assembly and you will be ready to add the trough.

To add the trough, install the 3 ½” bolts to the trough ends by pushing the bolts from the inside outward. This keeps the sharper edges of the bolts away from your deer’s noses and tongues, plus it makes installing the trough easier. Guide one end of the trough and its bolts through the corresponding bolt holes in the lower leg of the leg assembly, these two bolts also pass through the upper leg. Add washers and wingnuts but leave slightly loose. Attach the trough to the other leg assembly to complete. Do Not Yet Tighten Wingnuts.

#### The Roof:

The roof assembly has been partially built up by us and then disassembled for shipping. Find the three roof trusses and the two roof peak boards with the matching marks. You will see each roof truss and roof peak has a set of markings. These will correspond with one another and are your guide to building the peak section of the roof. Align “A” to “A” or “1” to “1”, etc. The markings on the roof peak boards lay against the trusses and will not be visible once in place. Install 6 screws to form the roof peak. Please read the **NOTE** below



When installing the screws, only tighten them snugly as they can easily be driven all the way through the roof boards. They DO NOT need to be overly tight, just snug enough to hold the assembly together. You will now gather up the remaining two outer roof boards. Each will have a tongued edge and will mate with the peak you have already installed. Set the outer roof boards into place making sure they are tightly fit with the roof peak boards and are even at the ends of the roof. Install their six screws and your roof assembly is now complete.

**NOTE:** The tongues and grooves (T&G) are the most delicate portions of these boards. Pay attention not to bang them around or overly stress them during assembly. We have set up a procedure during the making of the T&G's to open the grooves and thin the tongues slightly so they slip together with ease. But, if they are overly stressed during handling or assembly, there is a potential for breakage. Once assembled, they are very strong and will keep rain and melting snow from getting through the roof.

**Final Assembly:**

Gather up the remaining bolts (qty 4 - 2 ½"), washers and wingnut and then take the roof assembly over to the assembled trough/leg assembly. Carefully set the roof onto the upper legs with the legs to the insides of the trusses. See photo above. You may need to flex the legs slightly and this is normal. Align the bolt holes and push the bolts through the truss and upper leg. Secure with washers and wingnuts.

**Cinch It All Together:**

Once all this is finished, you will have a completed feeder that has a sloppy or loose feel as it wants to flop side to side and end to end. This is GOOD. It will allow you to level the feeder in all directions. Once you are pleased the assembly is correct, various components are aligned properly and the trough and roof are level, TIGHTEN the wingnuts by hand as tightly as possible. Start at the bottom most bolts and work your way up.

**NOTE: IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE WINGNUTS ARE TIGHT and KEPT TIGHT!**

A feeder which is allowed to flop around due to loose assembly hardware is a feeder destined for the junk heap in short order. After you set out the feeder and it's in use, check the wingnuts periodically for looseness. They WILL LOOSEN over the first month or so as the wood fibers compress. Simply cinch the bolts down now and again and the whole assembly will remain rigid and strong. Occasionally or when you notice the feeder has lost its rigidity, check all the wingnuts and tighten as required. Typically, after a month or so the whole assembly will remain tight and rigid for many months.

**NOTE:** During assembly you will notice a little slack between the bolts and their bolt holes. We do this on purpose in order to allow for adjustment between the feeder's various assembly interfaces. When you are setting up a Covered Deer Feeder, use this "slack" to align the various components to one another. Keeping the wingnuts slightly loose will allow everything to slide back and forth a small amount. You will understand as the assembly comes together.

NOW, time to feed. Locate your feeder in a safe location.

Before setting the feeder out for your deer, read our on-line article "Feeding Deer Safely and Successfully", which is found in our "Hurley-Byrd How To" section which is linked to each web page of our website.

This will explain how to feed deer safely and correctly.

If you have any questions or comments regarding assembly or actual feeding,  
please call us Toll Free: 877-363-0199

Enjoy your new feeder and thank you for coming to:  
**Hurley-Byrd, LLC**  
**462 Williams Cross Way**  
**Fairmont, West Virginia 26554**

Process your **Warranty Registration** at: [www.WR.HurleyByrd.com](http://www.WR.HurleyByrd.com)

**H-B**

**Satisfaction Guaranteed!**

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