

The Roof Membrane

The roof membrane we currently use is made up of three separate pieces and two different types of materials (**fig. 7**). Over the main body of the hut is a roofing material called thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) (**fig. 8**) and over the porch and rear eave section we typically use a tan colored, commercial grade tent vinyl. The main reasons for this design are for aesthetics and for ease of construction for volunteers

For more detailed information about TPO and vinyl, locating them, and why we use them the way we do, you can check out page 74 in the FAQ section.

The vinyl material we use comes in long rolls that are 61" wide. For the piece that covers the porch we roll out 17'6" of the material and cut it with a razor knife or scissors (**fig. 9**). For the piece to cover the rear eave, we cut another piece the same length in half (yielding pieces for two Huts). The easiest way that we have found to cut it is to roll it up tight and cut it on the chop saw.

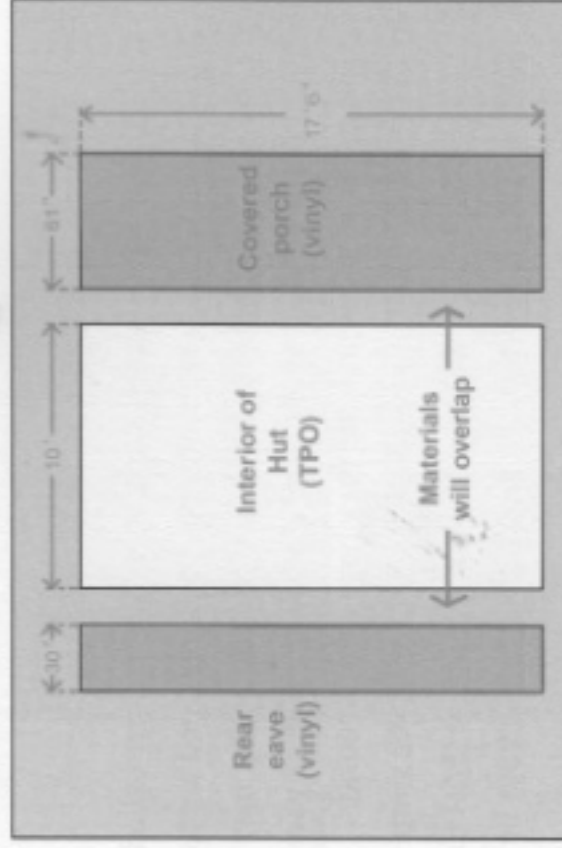


Figure 7.
Dimensions of
the 3 different
roof membrane
pieces



Figure 8. TPO: We purchase pre-cut rolls from a local roofing contractor. Small quantities of TPO are typically not sold at your general building supply stores.



Figure 9. (below) Cutting the vinyl material. Cutting the vinyl on a chop saw will produce some toxic fumes, so make sure you do it in an area that is well-ventilated and wear protective gear.