To get the TPO, we have an ongoing relationship with a local roofing contractor who often has large rolls in his shop for jobs. We give their shop a call and order 10 rolls at a time, which cost us about $120 per roll. The contractor delivers the rolls to our shop in individually wrapped pieces that are 10′ wide and 18′ long when unrolled.

For the vinyl, we work with a company on the East Coast called BondCoteTM that specializes in advanced composite fabrics for many industrial purposes. Their sales representatives have been very helpful in helping to identify high-quality materials that will stand the test of time and uphold well in the elements. The cost of the vinyl is around $50 per Hut.

A good way to ensure that you have a roof that will meet the needs of your climate is to call a local roofing company and get them involved in the project.

We have designed the roof to be a two-tone design out of the need to be aesthically interesting and attractive. This is one reason the Conestoga Hut has been successful in our neck of the woods, because it doesn't look bad and it is easy to maintain. During the summer time we get out the pressure washer and spray down the debris that has accumulated to keep up a positive appearance.

5. HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN SLEEP IN A HUT?

The short answer to this question is one person. I tend to think of the Hut as a hard shell to go around your sleeping bag that holds a little heat, offers protection from rain and snow, and gives someone a lockable place to store a few belongings.

The longer answer is that I have known plenty of couples who temporarily make it work and get really creative with how they arrange the space. To attempt to provide more space for individuals and couples, we've designed two different wooden bed frames, one for couples and one for individuals, that provide space underneath for storage in totes or bags. When we place a Hut we almost always provide one of these bed frames with a futon or twin mattress (on pages 67–68 you will find the plans for the frames that we build).

6. WHAT ABOUT USING CARPETS INSIDE THE HUTS?

Early on we did install low-pile carpets in the interior of the Conestoga Huts. But we quickly learned that this wasn't a good idea because they would get destroyed after a few tenants. Then, our crew would have to go back and change out the carpets only to have the same thing happen again.

As a solution, we said, "forget the carpets," and decided to paint the floors with two coats of floor paint. Hut residents can find their own throw rugs if they like. If, when