

those residents leave, the rugs are destroyed, we simply remove them and toss them into the garbage.

All that being said, a carpet can be a nice touch to a living space. They do need more care and maintenance than a solid surface floor, which is why we don't use them in our standard design. We don't know the living habits of a lot of our clients. Some are immaculate and care well for their spaces, and some are not. Better to design for the worst-case scenario.

## 7. WHAT TO DO ABOUT CONDENSATION WITHIN A CONESTOGA HUT?

Condensation happens in Huts for the same reason that condensation forms on the inside of car windshields on some cold mornings: the air in the car is warmer than the air outside and when the warm air touches the cold surface of the windshield it turns to a liquid form.

An electric heater, preferably the electric oil-filled radiator type, is one of the best ways to reduce the humidity inside a Hut and prevent condensation. But this does require a source of electricity. Here are two other ways to manage the condensation while being off the grid:

If possible, leave soaking wet belongings on the front porch to dry a little before bringing them inside.

Allow venting to happen by not blocking the vents in the front and back walls, even when it is cold outside. The

best way to stay warm at temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit is to have a good sleeping bag to curl up in. Proper ventilation will prevent the air inside the Hut from becoming too warm from your own body heat.

We have only had the experience of using the Hut in the Pacific Northwest. Every climate will present its own challenges for living in a shelter that doesn't have a form of air conditioning.

## 8. DO YOU HAVE ISSUES WITH MOLD IN THE HUTS?

The recipe for mold spores to grow requires three conditions:

- 1) food, like the cellulose in wood or cotton, for example,
- 2) moisture build up, and
- 3) extended periods of time with the first two conditions being met. Almost any structure can become infected with mold if not cared for properly.

But we don't see many instances of mold in the Conestoga Huts. We saw more in our earlier models and realized that we needed to treat the interior like an exterior environment by treating the wood with an exterior stain and sealer so it could stand up to a moister environment, especially for Huts that aren't heated with dry heat. Also, we made our vents above the door and the window larger so there would be more airflow, which is the best defense against mold problems in almost any situation. Airflow is absolutely critical in wicking away moisture from spaces. Most often,