

mold issues arise in living spaces because wet items build up and moisture is trapped in by ventilation being cut off.

9. HOW TALL IS THE INTERIOR OF THE HUT?

When standing inside in the very center of the Hut, it is about 6' tall. That maximum height can be frustrating for taller people who are prone to bumping their head on things, so it takes a little bit of getting used to.

10. HOW WELL DOES R-TECH WALL INSULATION PERFORM AS AN INTERIOR WALL OF THE HUT?

This material has some pros and cons as an interior wall and insulation. The pros are that it adds an important layer of insulation (without which the interior will experience heavy condensation in cold weather), it is easy to install, and it has "flame spread" and "smoke-developed" ratings (test method ASTM E84) that meet Oregon's residential code for interior wall material. But it is not supposed to be used as an interior wall material based on code because it is plastic foam material. We are currently working towards a solution that would be a more acceptable approach for interior wall insulation, but in the meantime the R-Tech wall panels are working well.

Besides not being totally code compliant—remember we are talking basically about a form of refugee housing and not a permanent residence—there are a few other strikes against

the material. For example, it gets battered up very easily (in a small space like a Hut it is easy to bump into it regularly), mice can easily chew through it and make a mess, and it practically evaporates into thin air when exposed to an open flame (though it doesn't ignite and burn independently).

We've had one experience with a severely mentally disturbed person who set fire to her belongings within the Hut. This person was a hoarder and filled the Hut as much as she could and one day had a panic attack and set her stuff on fire. Her stuff burned, but, in the time it took the fire department to respond, the Hut did not ignite. The only real damage was in the R-Tech insulation, which partially melted, creating a foot-in-diameter hole in the ceiling above the flames. The person was treated for smoke inhalation and was not hurt otherwise. We think twice, at least for now, about putting folks with severe mental illness into the Huts, but still would like to further develop the Hut to be a safe temporary habitat for anyone.

11. HOW MUCH DOES A CONESTOGA HUT WEIGH?

The Conestoga Hut, not including the foundation component, weighs approximately 980 lbs. If you are using fresh lumber it could weigh more initially. We use kiln dried lumber to reduce the extra weight and to prevent excess moisture within the Hut components.