

O'DOME

QUESTIONS

&

ANSWERS

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT O'DOME, THE INSTANT VACATION HOUSE

The O'Dome represents a new modular structural concept. It is a lightweight, re-locatable stressed panel structure that does not require supporting beams or walls.

Because it is a totally new concept you will have questions. Following are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions:

1. Q: Is the O'Dome designed for year round use?

A: Yes, the O'Dome was engineered to withstand heavy snow loads and high winds. Its urethane foam core provides excellent insulation, and the materials used are low in flammability. In addition, O'Domes have been used year round in such high snow areas as Aspen, Colorado and Northern Maine, and such high wind areas as Dania Beach, Florida.

2. Q: Are testing results available to aid in securing building code approval?

A: Yes, T.S.I. is completing a series of tests, audited by an independent engineering firm and the results of these tests are now being published.

3. Q: Does the O'Dome meet most zoning requirements?

A: In the more densely populated urban and suburban areas there exist stringent zoning requirements which in most cases reflect a bias in favor of traditional designs as well as materials. The stipulations for zoning vary by municipality, county and state. It is certain that in some areas, at least for certain uses, the O'Dome will conflict with the provisions of such codes and a special permit will have to be obtained.

On the other hand, in the preponderant number of cases, either its proposed site (i.e., less developed areas) or the use to which it is devoted will effectively remove the O'Dome from the coverage of such provisions. Check the local zoning board, if any, for the area in which you want to put up an O'Dome.

4. Q: Can we heat and air condition the O'Dome?

A: Yes. The O'Dome is more efficient to heat and cool due to the fact that there are fewer cubic feet of air per square foot of surface than a conventional structure of the same floor area. There is thus less surface area for heat transfer. Under winter and summer temperatures (-10° through $+90^{\circ}$) the following BTU requirements are suggested:

<u>BTU Cooling</u>	<u>BTU Heating</u>
15' - 11,000	15' - 18,000
20' - 15,000	20' - 24,000
25' - 18,000	25' - 34,000

Heating and air conditioning units may be purchased through T.S.I.

5. Q: Where is the bedroom?

A: First remember that the O'Dome is a completely modular concept. Most room dividers for the O'Dome are placed along the line of the radius. In cases where room dividers are used, they can be placed at any point around the circumference of the O'Dome, as can the doors or connecting passageways. The exact placement of any of these elements is left up to the choice of the customer. Bedrooms, bathrooms and separate rooms are created in one of two ways. First room dividers can be placed in a large dome or secondly domes can be hooked together to provide separate enclosures. For example, the large dome could serve as living and eating area while the small attached dome could serve as a bathroom-bedroom combination. The free unobstructed space of the large dome is very appealing to most of our customers and for this reason many prefer to outfit the 25 foot model as a studio, converting the living area into a sleeping area at night. Write to T.S.I. for some suggested interior layouts.

6. Q: Does the price include the deck?

A: No. However, we can provide some suggested site preparation drawings. Some customers prefer wooden decks, others plywood decks and still others concrete pads. It would be impossible for us to anticipate the kind of foundation that would be required in any given area since there is an almost unlimited variety of soils, slopes and weather conditions to be taken into consideration. Further the shipping costs for prefabricated decks would in many cases exceed the value of the lumber itself.

7. Q: How much does a deck cost?
A: A wooden deck built for the O'Dome would average approximately \$500, but the cost would be much less if you built it yourself. The cost of pouring a concrete slab depends upon your location. Providing that it is accessible to a cement truck, the base should cost \$200 to \$300.
8. Q: How long does it take to assemble an O'Dome?
A: For the large size, approximately one day, providing the deck has been properly prepared and the required tools and materials are on-site. The basic structure takes approximately 8 hours to erect. The finishing details such as squaring the door, putting on the canopy, installing the locks in the doors, etc., should take another two to three hours. The assembly time is dependent upon wind conditions and the skill of the workers. Smaller units require much less time.
9. Q: What is the dome made of?
A: The 15' and 20' O'Domes are made of a highly durable wood fiber material with a Korad acrylic laminated to the exterior for long wear and a white linen vinyl material laminated to the interior. The basic material is manufactured by the world's largest manufacturer of wood fiber panels.
The 25' O'Dome is manufactured out of two very strong skins of fiberglass completely encompassing a ½" slab of urethane foam. This ½" of foam provides as much insulation as is found in 85% of the homes today.
10. Q: How long will the O'Dome last?
A: The life of the O'Dome very much depends on the location, the number of times it is assembled and disassembled and the care that it is given, but the estimates of the manufacturers of the raw materials are that these materials will last almost indefinitely with the proper care. Fiberglass, of which the 25' dome is made, has long been established as an excellent material for exterior uses; for example, boats, snow mobiles, cars, etc.
11. Q: Are replacement parts available?
A: Yes. In the event that damage occurs to one of your panels, factory made replacements are available through your local dealer. In addition, two panels can be removed and an additional doorway inserted, if so desired at a later date.
12. Q: Can I hook two or more domes together?
A: Yes, you can. A 4' hallway connector system is available to permit you to fasten together two or more domes of any size. For example, 15 foot domes can be connected to either a 20 or 25 foot dome for extra rooms. The 4' connector system replaces one panel from each dome and provides an enclosed weathertight hallway between the units. If desired, domes can also be joined together at the standard 8' doorway system. Also, a 4' doorway is now available and can be ordered in addition to the standard 8' sliding door system. Prices for the 4' hallway connector or the 4' doorway are available upon request.
13. Q: How can I finance the O'Dome?
A: Financing your O'Dome is very much like financing your car. See your local banker or ask your dealer for help. The O'Dome has a serial number, and the description and serial number should be given to the banker at the time of financing. Financing has not been a major problem. Most of our customers have been able to secure loans through a local bank at normal interest rates with terms of up to ten years.
14. Q: How do I fasten the O'Dome down?
A: The aluminum at the base of each panel has one-quarter inch holes for fastening the O'Dome down to the deck or the concrete slab. If the O'Dome is to be placed on a wooden deck, we suggest the use of either nails, screws or lag bolts. The latter is preferable if the installation is to be a permanent or semi-permanent one. Nails or screws are adequate if the anticipated use is short-term. If the dome is to be fastened to concrete we suggest the use of Rawl plugs. Rawl plugs and the instructions for their use are available from your local hardware store. After fastening to deck, the perimeter of the O'Dome may be sealed with caulking materials; these materials may be purchased through T.S.I.
15. Q: What about ventilation?
A: In areas where ventilation is extremely critical, we suggest ordering the O'Dome with two doorways, or with a number of base panel vents. This gives cross-ventilation. In either the two doorway or the one doorway model, ventilation can be increased substantially by opening the skylight vent. This allows the air to flow out through the top of the doom and greatly increased the circulation of air through the dome.

16. Q: How do I handle wiring?
A: The wiring of the O'Dome should come in through the base or through the deck. Where the deck is above ground, we suggest the use of plastic or metal conduit.
17. Q: Are room dividers provided?
A: At present the company is not manufacturing room dividers for use in the O'Dome. However, room dividers are very simple to build. The curved aluminum on the doorway wall will give you the contour of the dome. Place the room divider material next to this doorway wall and trace along the prebent aluminum and you will then have the approximate curve of your room divider where it joins the side of the dome. After you have cut along this curve, you may notice some variation between this curve and the curve of the spot where you have actually decided to put the divider. To compensate for this variation you can use either gasket materials to take up the slack, or trim on either side of your room divider material after it is in place to cover the small variations. These divider panels are then connected to the floor and to their neighboring divider panels to provide structural strength.
18. Q: What is the skylight made of?
A: The skylight is made of translucent plexiglas acrylic.
19. Q: Can I put a fireplace in the O'Dome?
A: Yes. A hole for the fireplace stack can be cut through the center of the curved section of a panel without compromising its structural integrity. To determine the exact size and shape of this elliptical hole, hold a section of your pipe in a vertical position up near the panel through which you plan to have the stack protrude. Then trace the outline of the pipe. Your tracing will give you an elliptical shape on the curved panel which serves as a cutting pattern. Panel materials should be protected against the heat of the stack by the use of asbestos around that section of the pipe which protrudes through the opening or by the use of an insulated pipe. After this has been done, a flashing can be made to seal the joint on the outside. Fireplaces can be purchased from T.S.I.
20. Q: Are windows available for the O'Dome?
A: Yes. See question Number 21 for the available options.
21. Q: What options are available?
A: (a) Connecting devices enabling one to connect the 15' and 20' domes together.
(b) Oval plexiglass windows.
(c) Additional 8' sliding glass doorways.
(d) 8" x 11" screened aluminum base panel ventilators.
(e) Thermo-pane glass for the 25' model only.
22. Q: How long does it take to dismantle the O'Dome?
A: Approximately half a day.
23. Q: How can I insulate the floor?
A: If a plywood deck is used we suggest packing styrofoam or insulation material under the deck or between the carpet and deck. If a plank deck or concrete slab is used, a layer of visquine, then a thick carpet pad beneath your carpet will provide insulation. More can be provided by installing insulation board before putting down your carpet pad and carpet.
24. Q: What about freight and delivery?
A: We will ship your O'Dome or O'Domes anywhere in the country either via our truck or via common carrier. Past experience tells us that approximate costs run from \$80 to \$300 depending on area shipped to, type of carrier and number of units delivered. Delivery schedules range from four to six weeks upon receipt of your deposit. We would be happy to give you an exact quote upon request.
25. Q: Are utility cores available from T.S.I.?
A: We do not manufacture a utility core, however, we do have various utility core plans available upon request. Partition panels can be made by a local carpenter very easily and utilities such as a stove, vanity, shower, etc., may be obtained locally. Wiring and plumbing come in through the deck. Holes may be cut in the panel material, if necessary, to accept vent pipes, fireplace flues, etc.