

BUYING GUIDE

Everything you need to know
about buying a **FABRIC SHELTER**
before you buy





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Fabric Shelter structures – sometimes called Container Shelters, Industrial Shelters, Igloos, Eco Shelters, or, as we refer to them, DomeShelter™ Structures – have been used for decades in a range of industries including:

- Mining
- Civil
- Industrial
- Agriculture
- Onshore oil and gas
- Aviation
- Defence and Aerospace
- General events

Their versatility means functions are virtually limitless. Fabric Shelters are often used as workshops, warehouses and equipment storage facilities, to provide Shelter for assets and people.

The conventional alternative to a Fabric Structure is a steel shed, but they can be hot, harder to transport and install, difficult to relocate and generally more expensive.

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Fabric Shelters are composed of an arch steel structure, over which a durable fabric membrane is stretched to form a roof. For a structure that lasts, it's important to keep an eye out for high quality materials and manufacturing methods.

Fabrics

Modern fabrics can withstand large strains and are generally tear resistant and able to last the lifetime of the shelter. Not all fabrics are the same standard, however, so take care to select a supplier who works with the best available.

Steelwork

The steel framework needs to withstand significant pressure from high winds, weight bearing use and general wear and tear. As with fabrics, take care to deal with suppliers who understand steel quality and build their structures in accordance with internationally accredited standards, to ensure your people and assets aren't at risk.

Engineering Standards

Look out for standards such as AS1170.2 for Structural engineering, welding standard AS1554 and Quality Assurances ISO9001 and ISO 45001 which provide assurance for design, manufacturing methods and materials.



BENEFITS OF A FABRIC SHELTER

- ✔ **Transportable:** Can be transported to site with ease
- ✔ **Easy Installation:** Easily and quickly installed by on-site teams
- ✔ **Relocatable:** Can be dismantled just as easily to shift across site or off site
- ✔ **Quieter:** Fabric absorbs sound waves for a more peaceful work area
- ✔ **Cooler:** Increased air flow makes Fabric Structures up to 20% cooler than similar steel structures
- ✔ **Brighter:** Natural light passes through fabric, reducing the need for artificial lighting during day
- ✔ **Faster:** Efficient turnaround from design to installation
- ✔ **Cyclone rated:** They can be engineered to Wind Codes in Australia in accordance with AS1170, up to Region D (273km/h)

In summary, Fabric Shelters are engineered for durability, transportability, versatile uses and easy installation. They are particularly suited to temporary or semi-permanent installations, although many have been known to last in-situ 15 years or more.

MOUNTING OPTIONS

The 'Shelter' is comprised of an arched roof structure and covering fabric, which needs to be secured to a sub-structure or mount. Typically, there are four mounting options available. All wall and anchoring solutions are separate to the shelter kit and fabric covering and are often quoted separately.



1.

Shipping Containers
20 or 40 feet

Containers provide an ideal wall in a workshop situation, laid end to end on one or both sides of the shelter and stacked up to three high for greater height clearance. For anchorage, they can also be weighted, or they can act as secure storage and office facilities.



2.

Steel posts or columns

Steel posts are generally made with galvanised tubing or structural beams and can be any height, according to client needs and subject to engineering allowances. Securing is achieved by bolting to concrete slab and footings.



3.

Combination of container(s) and steel posts

Container / Post Combination is often used where secure storage is required together with workshop access on three sides



4.

Concrete Walls

Concrete Barriers, similar to those used on roads and freeways, make ideal walls due to their weight. There is a restriction on how tall these can be

SIZE

The dimensions of the structure will be dependent on the intended use; it may need a certain height clearance for equipment or have similar other requirements that will influence the eventual size.

There are a range of standard sizes, which can be found in Standard Size Guide, that are available for smaller or more generic projects. These are available off-the-shelf for greater manufacturing and cost efficiencies, are generally used for Container Mounted Structures, and range from around 12m wide to 30m wide.

EXTRAS

Packaging is an important factor in the fabrication of DomeShelter Australia's Structures. They are specifically designed to be able to deliver efficiently, with as few components as possible, for ease of transport and installation.

All DomeShelter™ Structures come kit packed, strapped in a steel crate and wrapped ready for transport. Shelter Kits are easily manageable for efficient delivery and reusable for relocation purposes.

Depending on size and delivery location, Shelter Kits are often transported in the containers they will be mounted on.

INSTALLATION

A Shelter is fabricated offsite and transported to site in kit form. On-site teams typically install the Shelter. The Shelter provider should equip the team with a comprehensive installation manual and also provide the option of an installation supervisor to assist where necessary (at additional cost). Otherwise, installation is generally the responsibility of the client or their contracted installers. Not all installation instructions are the same, so take care to ensure the supplier's installation process and instructions are appropriate and easy to follow.

WIND CODING

Your Shelter provider will ask the intended location of your shelter. This information is required to assess the wind rating according to the Australian Wind Code. Shelters in high wind areas, including cyclone prone areas are especially engineered to withstand these winds.

Ensure your supplier provides engineering certification (either general or site specific) to ensure your shelter complies with the Wind Code in your area. Your supplier should also provide engineering requirements for anchoring based on the Wind Code.



To find out more about DomeShelter Australia's Wind Coding specifically [click here](#)

EXTRAS

Your Shelter supplier should be able to provide additional extras including:



End walls, one or both ends with doorway access or fully enclosed



Side walls - for post mounted options



Containers and other supporting sub-structures



Lighting packages



Gutters and downpipes



Signage to promote your brand



Quick deployment flooring



HOW TO ORDER

Fabric Shelters come in a range of standard sizes. Typically, Australian manufacturers can also customise designs to suit your specific site requirements.

The turnaround time from order to delivery ranges from immediate (off the shelf) to three to six weeks for customised shelters. Reliable delivery commitments should be provided at time of order, with credible evidence of the suppliers track record for “delivery in-full on-time” (DIFOT). The Shelters steel kit, fabric covering and installation components are transported on flat-bed trucks from the factory, or in containers for shipping anywhere in the world.

For further information and expert assistance contact a DomeShelter Australia consultant on +61 8 9690 1100 or at sales@domeshelter.com.au

They can assist with all your queries and ensure the Shelter you order is suited to your exact requirements.

Alternatively, visit www.DomeShelter.com.au for further information.





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