DOMAIN DOMES

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COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Domain Domes are unique, frameless structures made of moulded fiberglass panels offering an affordable, quickly erected room, small dwelling or shelter space with great durability and flexibility.

The domes can be assembled and taken down repeatedly if required. The panels are pre-drilled and threaded for ease of construction. Panels are attached to each other with rustproof nylon zytel nuts, bolts and watertight gaskets.

One size dome is available with a 6.1 metre diameter (20ft). The height of the dome at the centre is 3.65 metres (12ft). This provides a total floor area of 30 square metres and a total weight of 544kg. The Domain Dome is made of 1/8th inch (3.1mm), fibreglass panels with an exterior gel coat that minimises maintenance beyond an occasional hose-down.

All domes are rustproof, waterproof and provide excellent shelter from all natural elements including strong winds. Domes can be painted any colour or with any design and connected to make dome modules for various needs.

How is the dome put together?

The dome can sit free-standing on flat ground assisted by anchoring posts. This is usually for short term periods. For longer term use the domes are anchored down with dynabolts to a foundation such as an existing hard surface, concrete slab, timber deck or flat platform. If required, internal flooring can then be added.

The panels bolt together using a couple of basic tools and any dome can be put together on a pre-prepared foundation

by 2-3 untrained people in 2-5 hours.

What features do the domes have?

Each standard dome has 3 standard sized, sliding , double glazed windows, one door and while stocks last a bonus, full length, door-sized lattice window .

Each window panel provides an interior edge which is a useful, level wall space inside. The full length window and the door fit into the door mould panel and the remaining closed third door mould panel allows for a 2nd full length window or a 2nd door to be added later for access or to connect to another dome. Doors or windows for this can be sourced locally and fitted. Inter-connected door passages can be joined to create a cluster of domes for any need and carpenters can build passageways and tunnels between them if required.

How are domes used?

Being highly versatile and relocatable, the domes have a variety of applications and can be used wherever shelter is needed. They are used commercially and privately as accommodation and living spaces along with offices, storage and special needs.

Applications include workers accommodation, crisis shelter, rural accommodation, urban house extensions, teenage retreats, tourist accommodation, alpine ski-resorts and factory / commercial offices. They even make a useful addition to urban roof-tops on buildings.

Companies have used them for trade promotions and workers accommodation, the Red Cross for medical stations, the US Army and Navy use them for troop quarters and to protect electrical equipment in remote areas, farmers for workers housing and mining companies for living quarters. They have also been the foundation for an entire Dome Village in Los Angeles acting as crisis accommodation and transitional housing for the homeless community and are a versatile, cost-effective solution for these needs.

Can I colour the dome?

The domes can be painted any colour or artistic mural / design before or after erecting. Adhesive stickers, logos or other design requirements can also be applied and removed.

Do the domes require insulation?

In short - it comes down to the location, climate, the application, budget, shading and other variables. The panels have a thin layer of fiberglass which provides basic level insulative value. Where required, insulation can be added in a number of ways.

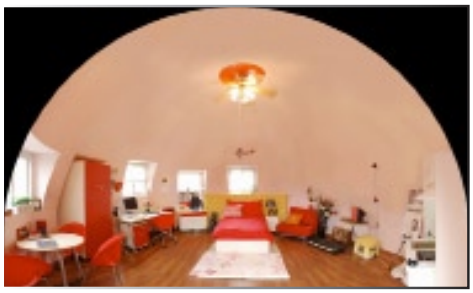
Firstly, various polyurethane foam insulation products are available. Contractors can offer this service and some offer a more cost-effective DIY kit. The foam can be applied on the outside or inside of the dome .Some examples include:-

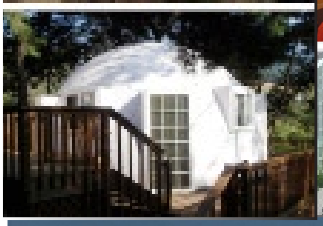
www.foamitt.com.au

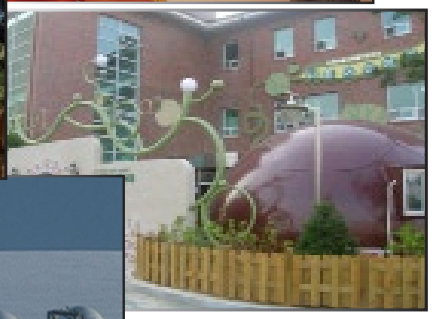
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nADZL8olrg

www.insulbarrier.com.au/heatlok-soy.

For more info on HeatlokSoy contact: david.Hazle@boral.com.au







The interior or exterior of the dome can have a render applied to it which is also effective but users should discuss a plan with render experts.

Alternatively, the interior walls can have insulation materials like astro foil fitted to the dome panels which can be left as is or covered for aesthetic purposes by either simple fabric, timber or any other covering,

In cold conditions, just like other shelters and houses, heating can be provided by a number of systems ranging from electric to gas to combustion wood heaters which can be flued through a hole in the roof panel. The size and circular nature of domes make them easy and highly efficient to heat. A hole can be cut into the panel to fit the flue system. This can also work for ventilation systems or skylights.

In hot climates, it may be that like other dwellings, a cooling system like a fan or small air conditioner is essential. A ventilation solution such as a air extractor / solar vent can also be effective at replacing warm air with cooler breeze.

What other design / modification techniques can work?

The domes can be connected via the extra door moulds to create multiple spaces. In some cases a tunnel has been built by owners joining and connecting domes with covered walkways.

Other options include creating bunkers, earth covered shelters and to cover the dome with climbing plants. The waterproof panels can withstand these options along with similar concepts to change the look and texture of the dome.

How can the domes be fitted with plumbing, electricals, kitchens, bathrooms etc?

The domes are mostly erected on a concrete slab, timber deck or platform of some type. As construction starts or proceeds, plumbing and wiring requirements can be fed up through the flooring or pre-placed in the concrete. In addition, holes can, if needed, be cut into the panels.

Some dome users fit small kitchens into their domes using fixed benches. Others use tables, sinks and removable furniture to create a clever, efficient kitchen of some sort and one that can be dismantled if needed. Bathrooms can be built into the dome and also sited outside the dome on the raised timber deck or concrete slab. Some companies provide ‘modular’ bathroom units. They are one single fibreglass shell complete with shower, toilet and vanitythat arrives either flat packed or on a small truck and is then plugged in and operating.

What about interiors?

A customer can choose to do anything inside they like. This may include having one large open space without separation, creating interior timber walls or more simple interior partitioning, blinds, curtains or fabrics suspended from wiring. Some owners have applied a render to the inside of the panels to change the texture and colour of the dome inside. Others have created a timber lining inside or used soft fabrics and curtains. It can be as simple or as refined as needed according to preference and budget.

How are the panels transported and stored?

A dome can be carried on one large trailer or in the back of a large Ute / small truck. In larger numbers they can be packed and moved in shipping containers and even air-dropped into remote locations.

Can anything be added to the dome?

In the extra closed door mould – a door of the same size can be fitted or a full length window of any type.

In fact a number of things could be used in the door or window moulds. Holes can be cut into the closed panels and re-sealed to accommodate fitted objects, lights, ceiling fans etc.

Walls can be decorated in various ways like the dome in the photo above.

Domes can be painted any colour or design and temporary adhesive stickers and banners can also be used.

How durable are the domes?

The durability of fiberglass ensures that the domes can withstand long term extreme weather conditions. Few domes if any have reached their shelf life to test their age limit however they are expected to last approx 50 years. Panel damage can be easily fixed and repaired and individual replacement panels can be sourced if required.