

History Of Quonset Huts

A Quonset hut is a lightweight hut made up of prefabricated structure. This prefabricated structure of Quonset huts is made up of corrugated galvanized iron with a semicircular cross section. Quonset huts are designed like the Nissen huts.

Nissen huts were developed by British during the First World War. The name Quonset hut is given because of the site, Quonset Point where these houses were first manufactured. Quonset Point is located in a village in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The need of Quonset hut was felt when in 1941 United States Navy demanded a lightweight building which could be designed without any skilled labor or which can be shipped very easily. A renowned construction company; George A. Fuller was given the contract of Quonset hut. The first Quonset hut was manufactured after the 60 days of contract.

The original Quonset hut had 16 by 36 ft or 5 by 11 m structure. The earlier Quonset hut was framed with steel members with an 8 ft or about 2.4 m radius. For making Quonset hut stronger the ridged steel sheets were used. The two ends of the Quonset huts were made up of plywood in which doors and windows were made. The interior of the house was insulated so that maximum protection could be given. In addition, the interior of the house had pressed wood lining and a wood floor. The old Quonset hut could be placed on wooden floor, concrete or pilings floors.

Nowadays, Quonset hut has become very popular among the individuals as well. Most of the Quonset huts are designed with a standard size of 20 by 48 ft or 6 by 15 m with 10 ft or 3 m radius.

A floor space of about 720 square feet or 67 m² is provided in each hut. In all of the entrances there are optional four foot overhands. This shows that these houses are very comfortable and protective from weather conditions. Today, Quonset hut is also manufactured with 20 by 40 ft or 6 by 12 m and 40 by 100 ft or 12 by 30 m.

Quonset hut is also in demand because it has flexible interior space. The interior space is open and it can be also used as barracks, latrines, housing, bakeries, medical or offices. During Second World War 150,000 to 170,000 Quonset were manufactured. After Second World War these houses were sold to the people for \$1000 each. Many of those Quonset Huts is still used in United States for commercial purposes like offices. Therefore, Quonset hut is a simple hut and it is very useful for various purposes.

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