

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

A LOOK AT NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Hex-Hut Shelter System

Who is Hex-Hut Shelter Systems Ltd.?

We supply portable welding shelters, mainly for pipeline construction and oil and gas facility installs. The company is family owned and operated, based in Calgary. Before founding Hex-Hut Shelter Systems in 2003, I spent 27 years as a pressure welder, working on all types of energy projects across western Canada. In my experience, the field shelters supplied to welders were typically cumbersome, uncomfortable, and at times downright unsafe.

What is a Hex-Hut Shelter System?

A Hex-Hut Shelter System is a lightweight, robust, durable, portable, temporary shelter that is reusable. Every unit is hexagonal in shape like a giant umbrella, with six independent walls made out of fire-retardant polyvinyl

chloride material. A shelter folds down into two bags with a collective weight of 170 pounds. One or two people can transport a Hex-Hut, then set it up in less than 10 minutes when conditions are favourable. The invention fits very well on any steam assisted gravity drainage or other in situ thermal construction project as well as pretty much anywhere contractors are building facilities and pipelines.

What are the competitive advantages of this product?

A Hex-Hut Shelter System, due to its unique design, will have the same configuration, interior room, and overhead clearance regardless of the elevation or slope of the pipeline, steel, or terrain. There's no conventional square frame that requires the ground to support it. Instead, our shelters can be attached to virtually any pipeline or structural steel by a patented steel cleat. The system adapts easily to any "tube and clamp" scaffold system, which minimizes the need for a skilled tradesman, expensive lifting equipment, and the single-use hoarding material that ends up in a landfill. Pins and lanyards keep the sections together, so there are no nuts, bolts, or small tools to lose in the snow or mud. The Hex-Hut can be used regardless of pipe size or the location of the pipe or structural steel. This flexibility allows people working inside the structure to manipulate their work environment to suit their needs and the requirements of the welding process without burning the structure down.

Do you have future development plans for Hex-Hut?

Absolutely. I have a few more ideas that will complement the Hex-Hut Shelter System. The product has evolved significantly since the first prototype. As an inventor, I am always looking for ways to improve the design.



Photos: Hex-Hut Shelter Systems Ltd.

Answered by Mark Moroney, founder and
VP operations of Hex-Hut Shelter Systems Ltd.