

Pit Houses

Pit houses are partially built into the ground. They historically provided warmth and shelter during the winter season for various Indigenous peoples in the Plateau region. While they are no longer common dwellings, they remain culturally important.

Advantages of pit house construction:

- Fire-resistant
- Excellent thermal insulation.

Potential drawbacks:

- Risk of overheating, mold, and poor air quality due to poor ventilation.

Wildfire



Fire-resistant

Rain and Floods



Poor drainage can lead to flooding and rot. Mitigation measures are required.

Windy



Wind-resilient, but roof needs anchors.

Extreme temperatures



Good thermal insulation aids in heat retention.

Seismic



Reinforcements needed through bracing or panels.

Recent information about the cost of construction pit houses in similar climates as BC's is unavailable. Estimates may be available through local suppliers.

Dodeca-Home under construction. Photo credit: Skeetchestn Dodeca-Homes

