

## Fabric Style Buildings

- With technology changing and construction materials improving, some communities have asked about the use of fabric-covered buildings to house and cover salt and/or sand/salt. These buildings come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and applications. Vendors promote their diverse uses, their portability, lower cost, ease of construction, and their durability.
- **Here are some other items to think about BEFORE purchasing a Fabric Style Building:**
  1. Most Importantly....What is the TOTAL cost of this type of building (foundation, electrical, site prep, etc) compared to a conventional concrete and metal/wood building? Are the "upfront" savings (if any) worth it in the long run?
  2. Is this type of structure the best use of public funds which provides long term benefits?
  3. How are repairs made if a loader rips the fabric or hits a supporting tube strut? Will a "repair kit" be ok, or will the company have to fix it? Cost?
  4. How long is the warranty? What exactly does it cover?
  5. During a busy winter, can the structure survive the constant exposure to heavy equipment?
  6. What is the actual design life in your climactic conditions? What is the snow load design?
  7. Can it be designed large enough to cover your entire volume?
  8. What if heavy winds or snow damages (or destroys) the structure?
  9. Where is the local vendor for service and/or quick repairs?



View of front entrance.



View of front entrance. Note tiedowns of fabric in concrete footing.



Interior side view. Note storage of sand/salt against 4 foot high concrete retaining wall.



Inside front entrance. Note 4 foot high treated concrete retaining wall and translucence of roof fabric.