

BC Ministry of Transportation

Location: British Columbia

Application: Salt & Equipment Storage; Maintenance Shops

Building Series: Arch™ & TITAN®

Dealer: Cover-All Buildings-BC



Cover-All buildings chosen over other buildings by BC Ministry of Transportation

In British Columbia where highways are carved through mountains and the annual snowfall is 25 feet in some areas, maintaining the 56,000 km (34,798 miles) highway system is critical to the economy and safety of travelers. Keeping roads clear of ice is one of the key factors. To effectively manage 200,000 tons of salt for de-icing, the B.C. Ministry of Transportation needed to find ideal salt storage facilities for over 100 locations across the province that allowed highway maintenance contractors to quickly and easily access the salt.

To ensure they found a building that performed to a strict list of specific requirements, the Ministry purchased several fabric buildings from various manufacturers in 1996, and evaluated the performance of each building. All buildings needed to have an engineered foundation, service provided by the manufacturer and dealer representative, product consistency, and warranty on all building components.

"The Cover-All BC dealer and the Cover-All product easily exceeded all the necessary requirements," says Rob Buchanan, senior geo-scientist and a 30-year veteran with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation. "The Cover-All buildings performed excellently."

They have since purchased over 100 Cover-All buildings. Most of the buildings are 42' x 60' Arch buildings, with the largest being a 50' x 200' TITAN. Not only are the buildings being used for salt storage, but also for equipment storage and maintenance.

"Operators like the building because the clear-span area allows machinery to easily get in and out," says Buchanan. "The buildings are superior to our old wood salt storage buildings because we can dump twice as much salt directly inside and away from the moisture."

The foundations are constructed of 4,400 lb concrete lock blocks stacked four feet high to create a 10' high containment wall. The interior lock block wall is lined with 3/4 inch plywood treated with linseed oil. Both the Cover-All and foundation are portable, so when a site needs to be changed, they can be relocated. The building and the foundation can typically be installed in just two and a half days.

"We are consistently impressed with the way the Cover-All buildings go up," says Buchanan. "People are always amazed when we say the building will be up next week. Most people respond, 'You mean they'll start construction,' and my response is, 'No, the building will be up next week.'"

The Cover-All galvanized steel components are protected with a Gatorshield corrosion barrier, which is standard on all Cover-All building truss components. Other interior steel components are treated with epoxy or a unique Sunseal anti-corrosion treatment.

"The Cover-All buildings are operationally effective and are perfect for what we need," says Buchanan.

Building Highlights

- To date, over 100 Cover-All buildings have been constructed at various sites in B.C.
- Cover-All's unique DuraWeave® cover will never rust, even under the harshest conditions.
- Cover-All buildings are pre-engineered for permanence but can be relocated if required.
- Cover-All buildings are available in widths from 18 to 160 feet, to any length.



Three TITAN's house equipment and salt at Allison Pass, BC



A 40' x 75' TITAN stores salt at Zopkis, BC



A 42' x 60' Arch stores salt at Blue River, BC



According to operators, the Cover-All buildings are easier to dump salt in than conventional structures