



DIY Hints and Tips

Cleaning your shelter

Cleaning the outside. If you do not have a power washer, Pull it into a car wash. The main idea is to get all the green leak test oil off of it. The channel iron will take a while to flush it all out. Spray under the shelter as best you can, but no green oil is under it since it has no seams. Do not wax it.

To clean the inside, park the trailer on a slope where all the water will run to one corner. We power wash the inside using purple power to get the film and smoke off the metal. Most of the smoke will be on the ceiling. The floor will have grit on it. Spray it all into one corner. We drop a sump pump into it and run the extension cable and the water hose from the pump through the vent hole. DON'T PLUG IT IN WITH SOMEONE INSIDE. After no one is inside, start the pump. Now use a wet vac (shop vac) to get what is left of the grit and dust. Do not leave a puddle. It will flash rust. You can set a fan on the stairs to help it dry faster.

If you do not have a power washer, sweep the grit off the floor, then use paint thinner or Awesome cleaner (dollar Tree) to clean the film and smoke off, mainly on the ceiling.

Painting the shelter

What you will need. An oil-based primer, PPG, makes a good, fast-dry one. Kilz is good, also. Sher-Kem gloss white topcoat paint and Tar-Guard (cold tar epoxy). Tar-Guard is a two-part epoxy. The five-gallon can have four gallons of tar to make room for the one gallon of hardener. Tar-Guard is called a kit, one part A and part B. It is billed as one kit as well. Not as five gallons as a new employee once tried to charge.

Size shelter	# of kits	gal of primer	gal of paint
5x6	1	2	2
6x8	2	2	2
6x10	2	2	2
6x12	3	2	3

Prime the inside first. One good coat should do. You can roll it and brush it. But it is much easier to spray it. After priming, ensure it is coated well with no bare metal showing. If so, do another coat. If spraying it, have an extra set of goggles on top of the shelter where you can swap them out mid-way through. They get coated quickly. Back out of the shelter and cover your foot tracks. Note: you can mask off the chain, door lock handle, and rods to make it look more professional.

The topcoat (Sher-Kem) can be rolled and brushed, but spraying is the best and easiest. Two or more coats are best for a great sheen and extra durability. Remember to cover your footsteps. Our painter puts plastic bags over his shoes to help him not leave tracks while doing the topcoat.

The outside. Tar-Guard is thicker than molasses. It can be applied with a roofing tar brush or sprayed with a heavy-duty spray rig. Read the directions well. Once mixed, you only have a certain amount of time before it hardens in the can. Depending on the outside temperature. You can also mix up half a kit at a time. Get your measurements right. Yes, you do really need to coat underneath the shelter. Lift it with your two-ton electric hoist or use your forklift. Don't own either? Ok, another trick. Hook a chain to the hook on top of the shelter and use a truck or tractor to tilt it over to one side. Tar that underside, then tilt it over to the other side. Let the shelter back down on 4x4s or bricks to rest on the "C" channels on the floor. Do not gamble on chains. Use jack stands or the likes in case the chain breaks. Seal all the "C" channels up with the tar. Water can get behind them and create rust. Tip: if it's cold outside, keep the tar inside your house till you're ready to use it. Our painter puts a small space heater on them for about 30 minutes before using it too. It helps.

Depending on the weather, The epoxy needs to cure for a few days. However, some have installed them before they were fully cured.

These are simple hints and tricks we've learned. They are not professional advice, and Cozy Caverns and its owners or members will be held liable for any misleading or wrong information. Be smart and safe in cleaning and painting. Always wear/use protective gear and follow the manufacturer's instructions on paint, tar, and cleaners.