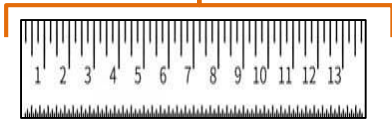


Safety measures for Winter-Friendly Dog Houses

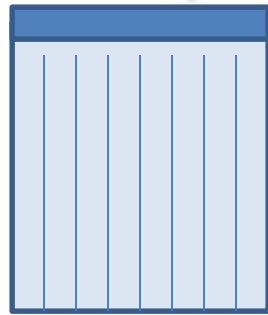
Size:

- The dog house should be at least 25% larger than your canine is.
- Large enough to allow the dog to stand to its full height, turn completely around & stretch out when lying down.



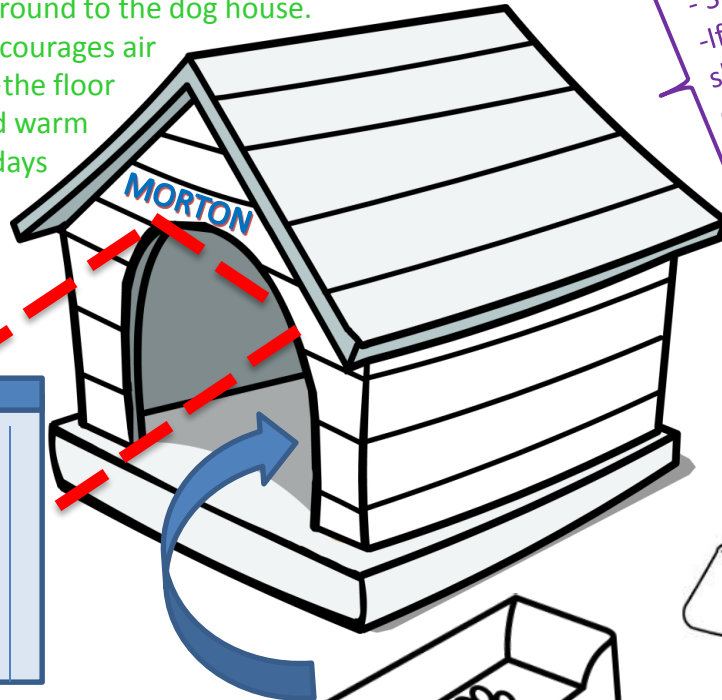
Doorway:

- Entryway must be protected by a self-closing windbreak:
 - Example:** waterproof burlap (or) heavy plastic, flexible door flap.
- The entrance should face away from the direction of incoming wind & snow.
- If the door is wide open, the shelter will become cold in a matter of seconds.



Flooring:

- Should be raised a few inches from the ground.
 - This avoids the passing of cold temperature from the ground to the dog house.
- This also encourages air circulation—the floor stays dry and warm during cold days & cooler during warm days.



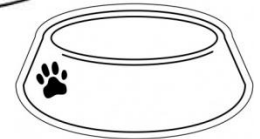
Roof:

- Sloped roof.
- If the kennel is not sheltered in a garage or covered area, reinforce the roof using a **waterproof** lining.



Food:

- Pets that spend extended periods of time outdoors during the winter require more food, as keeping warm depletes energy.
- Talk to your veterinarian for advice on proper diet.

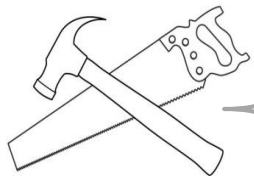


Water:

- Your dog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter, as they are in the summer.
- Use plastic food & water bowls.
 - Your pets tongue can stick to metal.
- Check to ensure dogs have access to clean, unfrozen water.
 - Tip:** Using a heated bowl will allow your dog to drink warm water throughout the day and night.

Weatherproof Construction Materials:

- Insulated or weatherproofed on all sides, including the floor, walls & ceiling.
 - **Wood**—a warmer material & a better choice for winter.
- There should be no gaps in the shelter.
- Insulation foam materials for the roof, walls & floor to enhance heat retention.



Bedding:

- To offer additional levels of protection: make a raised bed using a fluffy cushion, fleece blankets, or thermal mats.
- Or:** a bed covered with dry cedar shavings, straw, or hay.
 - **Note:** needs to be changed often.

