

DuraVent Chimney Keeps Contemporary Styling of Young Man's Dream Yurt Intact

Sleek, Scandinavian design isn't the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks of yurts or the woodstoves that are so often used to heat the unconventional, round dwellings. But yurt homeowner, Zach Both, isn't confined to convention, especially when it comes to living spaces. After all, he spent three years living and working out of a used cargo van, which he meticulously renovated into something that looks like it belongs on the pages of DWELL magazine. So, when he decided (and why not?) to build a yurt, a portable, circular tent-like shelter, he was determined that it be stylishly minimalist, right down to the woodstove and chimney.

"When I decided to build a yurt, I knew I wanted to do something that few people have done before. I wanted to build a modern yurt with contemporary styling."



That left Zach in a bit of a bind because the yurt, which would be set on leased rural land about 20 minutes outside of Portland, would need a woodstove and most woodstoves are designed with lumberjacks and grandmothers in mind; they are either overly rustic or overly ornate. Fortunately, the 25-year-old former art director turned writer and filmmaker discovered Rais, a Danish brand of clean-burning Scandinavian styled woodstoves.

Rais' minimalistic Q-Tee II stove was perfect for Zach's vision of the home he planned to build and share with girlfriend, Nicole. The matte black color and straight lines were the perfect complement to the yurt's white vinyl wall panels and white latticework that provides vertical support for the black rafters overhead.

The Perfect Yurt Chimney for the Perfect Yurt Stove

The next challenge was finding a way to safely vent the stove to the outside without ruining the aesthetic of the yurt exterior. While scouring through various online yurt forums for a solution, Zach found that one name kept popping up: DuraVent.

After some additional research, Zach selected a 6" DuraTech® chimney from DuraVent. The system included everything he would need to connect and vent the Rais woodstove:

- **18" chimney pipe:** Connects finishing collar on the inside of the yurt to the tee on the outside.
- **Wall thimble:** Flashing to protect the yurt wall from the chimney's heat.
- **Tee section:** A 90° elbow for the chimney pipe with an access for routine chimney cleaning.
- **2' x 5' sections chimney pipe (totaling 10'):** The actual vent pipe.
- **Vertical cap w/ spark arrestor:** The crown at the very top of the chimney which prevents water and pests from entering the chimney and any stray embers or hot ash from escaping outside.

The inner and outer walls of the Class A chimney pipe are made of .016" stainless steel, with 1" of mineral wool sandwiched in between. The DVL® stovepipe afforded Zach a little extra space inside the 30' diameter yurt because it only requires a minimum 6" clearance from combustibles, making it possible to install it a mere 6" from the structure's vinyl wall panels.

Yurts cannot support the weight of a chimney with brackets that attach to the roof or an outside wall like a typical framed structure. So, to install the chimney, Zach learned that he would

have to build an exterior support next to the yurt for this purpose – a 20' galvanized 2" pipe embedded into 3' deep concrete base. The only other option Zach could find was construction of a bulky wooden base made of 4 x 4 posts. But again, this method would be contrary to the contemporary aesthetic Zach had worked so hard to achieve. Taking a clue from an online forum he opted to install the chimney by attaching it to the support post with brackets which he ultimately designed and fashioned himself using parts from a big box store. The end result is a long, lean stainless-steel chimney that has a sleek, yet unobtrusive presence.



Install-It-Yurtself

The installation of the stove, DVL stovepipe and chimney only took a couple of days with Zach doing most of the work by himself. On a scale of one to five in difficulty, Zach gave it a one.

“The DuraVent chimney connects quite easily. The pipe sections go together with a simple lock and twist mechanism that requires no screws” said Zach.



Interestingly, the whole set-up, stove, chimney, etc. can all be disassembled, along with the Yurt, and moved to another location. That's sort of the idea with Yurts. Conceived of over 3000 years ago by Mongolian nomads, they are designed to be dismantled and moved around, although today they populate resort-like campgrounds, serve as Airbnb's, and occasionally as permanent housing.



The yurt concept has experienced a bit of a renaissance over the last decade due to rising housing costs, increased interest in green lifestyles and an increased willingness, among local regulators, to grant building permits for these unconventional structures. With examples like Zach's, along with a website that documents his yurt adventure (<https://doityurtself.com/>), it's entirely possible that DuraVent could become a go-to for this burgeoning trend in home ownership.

"It's not a market we had exactly envisioned for this product, but it does showcase very well what is so special about our pre-fabricated vent products: They are super easy to install and they look great," remarked Christopher Shields, DuraVent Digital and Content Marketing Specialist.



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