

# 'Thermal' tents for earthquake survivors

Tested in cold storage and wind tunnels, successfully used in the Kosovo crisis, a cheap shelter quickly assembled from local materials offers hope for some of the more than two million homeless facing a bitter winter in the wake of South Asia's earthquake

**Tunnel shape:** Offers less resistance to strong winds, allows snow to slide off easily

**Outer covering:**  
Thick plastic sheet

**Extra warmth:**  
Provided by a simple, traditional stove

**End fixing:** Stitched and tensioned with rope

**Ground sheet**

**Frame:**  
Standard plastic water pipes

**Reinforcement:**  
Horizontal metal rods

**Ground pegs:**  
Slot into pipes

**Rope bracing**

**Door and end panels:**  
Plastic sheeting

**Insulation:**  
Felt or blankets laid over frame for warmth

**Size:** 3.6m-square tent accommodates six people

**Soil:** Dug out and banked around sides to prevent water seeping in