

# Rock Cooling

Rock cooling and storage system

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Here in Kansas City, we built a basic wire cage to store our equipment for about \$400 in materials. It is about 6' X 8' internally and holds nearly all our equipment (except one set of stones which we have in crates) including 3 wood benches, a pebble crusher and an extra crate for long term storage.



An 8' X 10' space would hold all the basic necessities but a 10' X 12' room would be quite spacious for curling equipment. The shape of the room is unimportant but the square footage is key if you want all your equipment and rocks to fit inside.



The facility will dry scrape the rink with the zamboni and dump the snow from the hopper on the floor in the zamboni garage - a secure area from the public. A crew of 2 - 3 individuals will level out the snow and place a plastic tarp over it to keep the stones dry.



Using platform trucks (\$90 per truck) holding up to 6 stones at a time, our 68 curling stones are moved and placed on top of the plastic tarp.

Another tarp is pulled over top of the stones to hold in the cold. This process requires no more than 30 minutes to complete.

The procedure can be done as far as 24 hours in advance but must be done at least 3 - 4 hours before curling to avoid any melt in. You want a bed of snow about 3 - 4 inches thick with an area large enough to place the stones on top.



Usually one hopper full of snow from the zam-boni is enough. We get rid of the snow by either shoveling it into the melt bin or washing down the area with a light hose.

Stones end up at a good temperature to get consistent curling - typically 20-22 second ice times from hack to house. After curling, we move the stones back to the cage until next time.

Although this has worked well for us for four years, we would like to curl more than one time per week and so we are currently looking at adjustable temperature controlled freezers.

The ideal situation is to have new arena facilities create lockable storage rooms for curling equipment - with piping in the floor so an ice sheet inside could be maintained!