

## Reimagining *Comfort & Creativity*



### Demco Zen Zone Tent



# The Demco Zen Zone Tent: Reimagining Comfort and Creativity

The first educational tent to combine recycled PET felt, fold-flat portability, and multi-sensory cutouts into a versatile, maintenance-free tool for modern learning spaces.

## INNOVATION/USAGE

### Innovation through material, mobility, and mindfulness

The Demco Zen Zone Tent introduces a new standard for versatility, sustainability, and sensory support in educational spaces. While tents are not new to early learning environments, the Zen Zone Tent stands apart through its thoughtful use of 60% post-consumer PET felt, foldable design, and multipurpose functionality that nurtures mental and emotional well-being in young learners.

### Groundbreaking design

The Demco Zen Zone Tent is the first of its kind to combine PET felt, fold-flat design, and educational cutouts into one versatile and 100% recyclable product. The tent's design is large enough for kids to play, cozy enough to read, and quiet enough to decompress. Unlike plastic or fabric, the soft PET felt dampens sound, offering kids a place to escape overstimulation and practice self-regulation. Its artful cutouts encourage airflow and natural light, support passive supervision for educators, and double as visual and tactile learning tools. Paired with vibrant prints, they help spark imagination and thematic play! Plus, its fold-flat, lightweight design minimizes packaging waste and simplifies storage between uses.

### Emerging technology and materials

At the core of this product's innovation is the choice of material: PET felt made of 60% post-consumer recycled bottles. This environmentally friendly material is often reserved for acoustic panels or wall treatments, but Demco reimagined it as a portable, multifunctional structure for educational spaces. This material is:

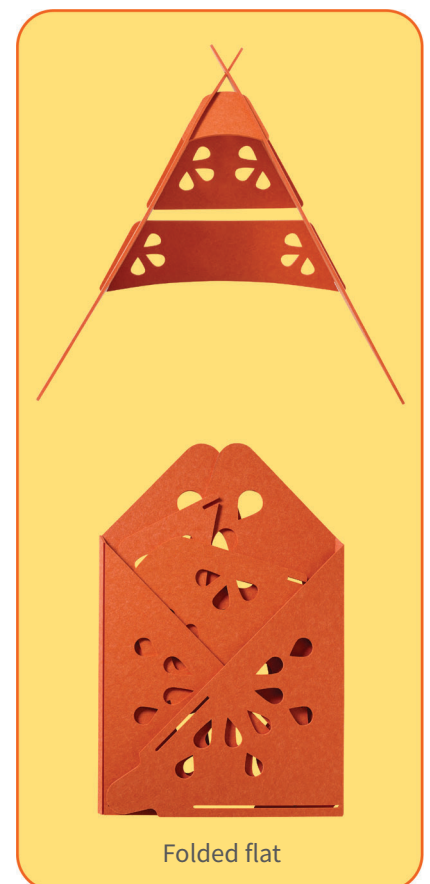
- Durable enough to withstand regular classroom use
- Fold-flat and lightweight for easy setup, transport, and storage
- Flexible and soft to the touch, reducing injury risk and eliminating failure points
- Naturally sound absorbing for an acoustic dampening effect
- Thermally stable to avoid warping or deformation in any climate
- Non-toxic and low VOC, supporting better indoor air quality for students and staff
- Stain-resistant and easy to clean, reducing maintenance time and effort

### Advantages in the learning environment

The Zen Zone Tent offers an elegant solution for various classroom space needs. Its portable form makes it easy to rotate between rooms or store when not in use. Educators can offer it as:

- **A self-regulation space** for neurodiverse or overstimulated students who need to step away from busy group environments
- **A reading nook** that gives children a cozy, private-feeling environment to immerse themselves in stories
- **An imaginative play zone** that inspires story-based exploration through visual themes like woodland scenes or outer space

In a world where schools are increasingly tasked with meeting diverse student needs in shared, flexible environments, the Demco Zen Zone Tent delivers a solution that is inclusive, imaginative, and ready for real-world classrooms.



Folded flat

### Circular design thinking at the forefront

The Demco Zen Zone Tent exemplifies how sustainable materials can be reimaged into warm, engaging, and safe learning spaces for children. From its construction to its end-of-life considerations, the tent reflects Demco's commitment to environmental responsibility, safety, and universal access.

#### Sustainable materials

Rather than relying on conventional tent materials like fabric or vinyl, Demco explored an unconventional solution: PET felt, typically used in acoustic or architectural applications. The Zen Zone Tent's material and construction reflect a commitment to circular design thinking and real-world sustainability.

- **Eco-friendly production:** This soft, durable, and sound-dampening material is made from 60% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. It's a high-performance product that diverts plastic waste from landfills and gives it a second life in service of children's learning and wellness.
- **100% recyclable at the end of its life:** PET felt can be mechanically recycled (ground down, melted, and reformed) into new felt products. This supports a closed-loop product lifecycle and reduces environmental impact.
- **Reduced packaging waste:** The tent's self-supporting, fold-flat design eliminates the need for rigid internal structures or excess packaging. This allows for compact shipping, lower emissions from transport, and less waste during unpacking and storage.
- **Longevity:** PET felt is extremely durable, withstanding tearing, fraying, and degradation from everyday classroom use. Its resilience extends the product's life and avoids unnecessary replacements.
- **Single-material simplicity:** The Zen Zone Tent can be easily disassembled and recycled without separating mixed components, eliminating a common barrier to effective recycling and increasing the likelihood it's properly processed.

Plus, this product is compatible with LEED and WELL criteria, which can contribute to building certification.

#### Social and economic sustainability

The Zen Zone Tent was thoughtfully designed to support long-term sustainability on multiple fronts.

- **Environmental:** PET felt is highly durable and retains its structure over time, minimizing the need for replacements. Its recyclability supports zero-waste goals, and its compact storage profile means fewer resources are needed to store and transport it.
- **Social:** The tent is designed to be inclusive and accessible. It can serve children of diverse abilities and needs, from those seeking quiet time to those engaging in imaginative group play. Its calming material properties and multifunctional use make it an effective tool for social-emotional learning, especially in classrooms practicing trauma-informed or neurodiversity-affirming approaches.
- **Economic:** Schools and districts benefit from the Zen Zone Tent's multi-use functionality and low maintenance demands. By combining the role of a reading nook, sensory retreat, and imaginative play zone, it reduces the need to invest in separate, specialized furnishings.

#### Commitment to student safety

Safety is a foundational element of the Zen Zone Tent's design. Constructed entirely from soft PET felt, the tent eliminates the hard edges, rigid framing, and small parts that can pose risks in busy early learning environments. The result is a self-supporting structure that's soft to the touch, safe for movement-based play and tactile exploration, and reassuring for both students and educators.

Because the tent is made from a single, non-toxic material, there are:

- No flame-retardant coatings, adhesives, or finishes that might off-gas or degrade over time
- No pinch points, zippers, or fasteners that could snag clothing or fingers
- No sharp corners or hard supports to cause injury during active use

Strategically placed windows provide essential line-of-sight for educators, allowing discreet supervision while preserving children's sense of autonomy. These openings also support classroom safety by maintaining visibility without disruption.

### Designed to reduce more than just stress

The Demco Zen Zone Tent supports calm, creativity, and inclusive learning. It also delivers meaningful benefits like reducing energy use, lowering operational costs, and increasing the overall efficiency of the learning environment.

#### Energy usage and lifecycle efficiency

Though the Demco Zen Zone Tent requires no electricity to function, its design choices contribute to energy efficiency across both production and everyday use. From material sourcing to deployment in learning spaces, the tent supports a lower-impact footprint in subtle but meaningful ways.

- **Energy-conscious material production:** PET felt made from 60% post-consumer recycled bottles requires less energy to produce than virgin plastics or traditional textiles. The felt is created through a dry process that avoids water-intensive dyeing and chemical finishing, reducing the overall environmental load during manufacturing.
- **No built-in power or climate control needs:** Unlike furniture pods or breakout booths that rely on lighting, ventilation, or structural supports, the Zen Zone Tent is fully passive. It functions without electricity, wiring, or floor mounting, and requires no HVAC adjustments or modifications to the learning environment.
- **Flexible use indoors or out:** In fair weather, the tent can be used in semi-sheltered outdoor areas, encouraging fresh-air learning without added strain on indoor climate systems. This flexibility allows educators to expand usable learning space without increasing energy usage.
- **Compact storage and transport:** The foldable form factor reduces packaging volume and shipping impact. When stored, it requires no climate control or protection from warping, unlike rigid framed alternatives.

Together, these features make the Zen Zone Tent not only easy to use but also inherently efficient, reducing the need for added infrastructure, power, or ongoing energy consumption across its lifecycle.

#### Operational efficiency and cost savings

In addition to supporting student well-being and imaginative play, the Zen Zone Tent offers measurable savings for schools through its thoughtful construction, long-term durability, and multi-use flexibility.

- **Foldable and lightweight:** Its simple, portable, foldable structure can be managed by a single staff member, reducing labor associated with larger, fixed furnishings.
- **Durability that extends product life:** Made from dense PET felt, the tent resists crushing, fraying, and sagging, even with frequent use. Its long lifespan helps schools avoid recurring replacement costs and maintain performance over time.
- **Multi-use, multi-user:** By combining the functions of a sensory retreat, reading nook, and imaginative play space, the tent reduces the need to purchase and manage multiple pieces of equipment, streamlining procurement and maximizing space.
- **Low-maintenance design:** The tent is easy to clean with standard supplies and has no parts that require repair or replacement. This minimizes both upkeep and the need for outside maintenance services.
- **Infrastructure savings:** Schools can avoid the cost of installing fixed quiet zones or building dedicated sensory rooms. The Zen Zone Tent creates flexible, calming spaces wherever and whenever they are needed.

Its combination of longevity, portability, and versatility makes the Zen Zone Tent a cost-effective solution that delivers value year after year.



## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

### Supporting calm, creativity, and classroom connections

In an era of rapid change and diverse learning needs, the Demco Zen Zone Tent offers more than simple functionality; it offers a moment of peace. It is a human-centered, sustainable, and multifunctional product designed for whole-child development with classroom realities in mind.

What makes the Zen Zone Tent extraordinary is its ability to balance playfulness with purpose, inclusion with aesthetics, and structure with softness within a single design. Its minimal footprint and foldable design support agile learning environments, where furniture can be reconfigured to match curriculum, class size, or behavioral dynamics. But unlike many modular solutions, the tent also taps into a child's emotional landscape. It *feels* special.

Its soft, quiet construction offers a natural retreat for children who need time to reset. Its bold prints and inviting shape inspire play, storytelling, and peer interaction. Its simple setup and portability give educators the ability to adjust quickly, without disruption or added work.

Critically, the Zen Zone Tent does not isolate vulnerable students or create a separate experience for those needing support. Instead, it seamlessly integrates into any classroom, library, or early learning space, inviting all learners to engage, recharge, or explore independently.

At its core, the Zen Zone Tent reflects Demco's belief that every child deserves a space that makes them feel safe, seen, and supported. Its long life, low maintenance, and reusability make it a smart investment for schools, while its calming, inclusive, and inspiring design makes it an even smarter investment for learners.

The Demco Zen Zone Tent is more than a product. It's a peaceful retreat for reflection and self-regulation; a creative prompt for storytelling or sensory play; and a modular learning tool that meets the moment in modern education.

For more information, visit [demco.com](https://demco.com), search **zen zone**.

