



FREE BUILDING PLANNING KIT



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Free Steel Building Guide

Steel buildings, also called prefabricated or pre-engineered steel buildings, have been popular for decades for uses such as storage, warehousing, airplane hangars, retail and complexes for sports, recreation and entertainment. Today they offer outstanding flexibility and have been adopted for all manner of uses, from garages to small shops, workshops and craft space, and even homes and churches!

Modern steel buildings have come a long way from the simple structures of the past. They're supremely customizable, and can even be made to look like any kind of conventional building you like. Explore this free guide to steel buildings and learn what they have to offer, their strength, customizability, and why they're good for any use you might have, from storage to extra living space.

A Brief History of Steel Buildings

As popular as steel buildings are, many buildings you see that appear to be steel construction are, in fact, wood-frame buildings that are just wrapped in sheet metal. They're traditional structures trying to take advantage of the aesthetic of steel, but without gaining any of the practical benefits.

Full steel buildings first became popular in the early 20th century. At this time the steel industry boomed, and it became a building material of choice due to its sheer tensile strength, and its cost efficiency. Later in the century, computer software came into existence that could effectively design steel trusses and full buildings. Such software would expand the capabilities and utility of steel buildings. This allowed them to be designed to handle different loads, and even allowing for clear-spans of up to 300 feet.

Advantages of Steel Structures

The advantages of steel are numerous. It's extremely cost-effective, with the time and expense of erecting a steel building greatly reduced from conventional construction costs. A steel building, in fact, can be erected in just days or weeks, while an equivalent wood-frame building might take months, even longer than a year to erect. Since many of the elements of a steel building are prefabricated and designed before they are brought to site, overall costs of construction can be reduced by up to 60%.

Steel also offers superior weight-to-strength ratio, and can support a great deal of stress without the need for support struts or pillars. In addition, steel does not burn, warp, shrink, rot or crack — it's far more structurally sound than wood. In addition, there are no pests that will infest steel. You need not worry about bore bees, termites, carpenter ants or any other damaging infestation. It doesn't breed mold, and it doesn't emit volatile organic compounds. Whatever the environment sends against it, steel can handle it. It's also exceptionally low maintenance, as a result of its sheer strength and durability.

Adding an additional cost-savings element, all of these factors together can result in reduced insurance costs of up to 40%, and some manufacturers can offer structural warranty on the building that will be good for up to 30 years. Finally, they're supremely customizable and can be made with a façade to look like any other kind of building material. Whether you want it to look like stone or brick, or add any kind of siding you like, it's all available.

Because of all of these reasons, steel has become the number one choice in the market for a building material.

Eco-Friendly Building Material

If you're looking to go green with your construction, you can't beat steel as a material. It's an incredibly eco-friendly material. Many buildings are processed using recycled steel, which has the unique ability to retain all of its properties when reused and recycled. There's no deterioration or weakening in second- or third-generation steel products. In addition, consider that up to 50 trees can be used to build a 2000-square-foot building, whereas if you use steel, the same building can be erected by recycling six scrapped automobiles.

Some have criticized the steel industry for creating carbon emissions. In truth, the steel industry has been a leader in developing technologies to create and further environmentally-friendly methods of manufacturing. They have reduced carbon emissions significantly, and many other industries have adopted techniques pioneered by the steel industry.

Types of Steel Buildings

There are a broad variety of straight-wall and arched steel buildings available, each with its own uses. These include rigid frame buildings, open web truss, Quonset huts, hybrid buildings, tube frame and light gage frame buildings.

Aesthetic Concerns

One of the greatest advantages of steel buildings is that they can be designed to look like just about anything you want, including having the appearance of a traditional wood-framed building. Metal Pro can create custom buildings that will not only meet, but exceed any aesthetic concerns you might have.

If you're looking for a single steel building design with a wood, brick, stone, stucco or siding fascia, or you're looking for a custom complex that requires architectural or engineering support, we will help you work out exactly what you need, and make sure it gets done. We have many years of experience building custom steel buildings, and we can create the building of your dreams.

Building Timeframe

Another essential consideration when you're looking at a steel building is the timeframe for construction. How soon are you going to need the building? Traditional wood framed buildings can take a year or more to build, while steel buildings can go up in anywhere from four to six weeks. This is still a fairly long lead time, so if you are going to need the use of your building within the next couple of months, you should start your order process as soon as possible.

Overall, however, steel buildings are exceptionally fast to construct. Since they are prefabricated and pre-engineered, they are designed to go together by simply lining up the components and attaching anchor bolts to the structure. Experienced contractors and do-it-yourselfers can erect steel buildings quickly and easily, especially using the step-by-step erection guides and assembly drawings to help you understand the entire process.



Q-Series



Mini Series

Warranty and Cost Considerations

While steel prices fluctuate constantly, if you work with a reputable dealer like Metal Pro, you will receive price protection. This will ensure that the delivery of your building occurs on time, and on budget. Steel buildings can be somewhat expensive in terms of material, but you will save money in construction costs. These buildings are prefabricated and highly engineered, which means they require fewer laborers to erect.

In addition, you won't be surprised by hidden costs or delays in construction. The process of erecting a steel building is fast, efficient and easy, which will save money overall.

Another concern is warranty. Steel buildings come with a broad range of warranty options, and you'll want to ensure that the warranty you receive is among the best on the market. In addition, always be sure that you get your warranty in writing to back up the promises made.

At Metal Pro, you'll receive buildings constructed of AZ180 Galvalume Plus™ Steel. This comes with a 30-year factory warranty to protect against corrosion. This kind of steel also ensures that your materials will neither deteriorate nor require replacement.

Materials Durability

Steel is one of the most durable building materials on the market today. Many people are surprised to discover that despite its heaviness ratio, it is actually lighter than timber to carry and transport. It's capable of standing up to earthquakes, hurricanes and storms due to its high ductility. It doesn't rotate, distort, warp, divide or buckle.

This means that steel offers an outstanding value for the cost. Always remember that you get what you pay for — as John Ruskin said, "Good things are seldom cheap, and cheap things are seldom good." Steel is the best investment you can make in terms of a building material. It's better than wood in terms of strength and environmental friendliness. It will add value to your property and offer the best possible protection for whatever you wish to store within.

If you're looking for the best options in steel buildings, turn to Metal Pro. Contact us today for more information or to place your order.



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