

STEEL BUILDING PLANNING GUIDE



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WHY CHOOSE STEEL?

AN OVERVIEW OF STEEL BUILDINGS

Steel buildings, often called prefabricated or pre-engineered steel buildings, have been popular for decades. These durable structures are most commonly used as storage buildings, warehousing units, airplane hangars, retail store-fronts, garages, workshops, homes, complexes for sports, agricultural buildings, and as recreation centres, but every building can be tailored to your fit your specific needs.

Modern steel buildings have come a long way from their simple structured counterparts of the past. They're supremely customizable, and can be designed to match the aesthetic of virtually any kind of conventional building. Explore our guide below to find out why so many people around the world choose steel buildings for their next project:



OUR HISTORY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF STEEL BUILDINGS



All-steel buildings first became popular in the early 20th century. At this time the steel industry boomed, it became the 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.

WHY CHOOSE STEEL?

ADVANTAGES OF STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Buildings are extremely cost-effective, easy-to-assemble and durable. A steel building can be erected in just a few days without a specialized crew. All the elements of our steel building kits are prefabricated and designed before they reach the site, allowing for an incredibly painless installation process. Overall costs of construction can be reduced up to 60% when compared to conventional structures. Steel also offers a superior weight-to-strength ratio, and can support a great deal of stress without the need for additional support struts or pillars. In addition, steel does not burn, warp, shrink, rot or crack — it's far more structurally sound than wood. Also, there are no pests that can infest steel. You need not worry about borer bees, termites, carpenter ants or any other damaging infestation. Steel doesn't breed mold, and it doesn't emit volatile organic compounds.

- **Durable**
- **Long-Lasting**
- **Easy-To-Assemble**
- **Low Maintenance**
- **Cost Effective**
- **Rust Resistant**
- **Customizable**



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING YOUR BUILD

There are many things to consider when you're undertaking any new building project. These include: your budget, your time frame, your aesthetics, the design you want, the supplier you use, warranties and much more.

Aesthetic Concerns

One of the greatest advantages of steel buildings is that they can be designed to fit virtually every aesthetic. 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 to work out exactly what you need, and make sure it gets done within your time frame. We have over 30 years of experience building custom steel buildings, and we are confident that we can create the building of your dreams.

Building Timeframe

How soon are you going to need your building? Traditional wood framed buildings can take a year or more to build, while steel buildings can be designed and assembled 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. However, the construction process is exceptionally fast. 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, using the step-by-step erection guides and assembly drawings to help you understand the entire process.

Functionality

Of course, you'll need to be absolutely clear about what you need out of your building. Make a note of the exact dimensions you need — length, width, internal area, etc. Will you eventually need to expand the building? What doors and windows will you want? How large will they be and where will they need to be situated? What function will they serve? Do you need walk doors? Overhead doors? Ventilation windows? Large windows for lighting and view? Do you need insulation for the building, and how will it be heated and cooled, if at all? What roof pitch do you need? Consider all of these factors and others to be sure your design meets your exact needs. One of the greatest benefits of a steel building is that it can be designed exactly to your specifications.

Budgeting Your Purchase

When creating your budget, there are a number of factors to consider. There will be land costs, the cost of permits, labor, building package, and insulation.

The base cost of erecting a building will range from \$6 to \$11 per square foot. Creating a foundation will run between \$4 and \$9 per square foot, and the cost of erecting the building can run anywhere from \$3 to \$10 per square foot. Accessories and incidentals can run anywhere from zero cost to up to 30% of the total building cost or more.

Design Requirements

Before you place your order, check local building codes. While most steel buildings can be created and designed to suit just about any building code, it's important to know the regulations and statutes you need to follow. In addition, local codes may limit your options in terms of budgetary considerations and what's practical. Once you've educated yourself on building codes, snow and wind load requirements and the like, you'll need to determine whether you're going to build it yourself or hire a crew. If looking to go the DIY route, you'll need to make sure that your building is designed for DIY construction.

WHY BUILDWAY?

WARRANTY AND COST CONSIDERATIONS

While steel prices fluctuate constantly, if you work with a reputable dealer, like Buildway, you will always receive price protection and remain informed of all cost reasoning in an honest manner. This will ensure that the delivery of your building occurs on time, and on budget. These buildings are prefabricated and certified by an in-house engineer before leaving our warehouse, allowing them to be assembled anywhere with ease, requiring less labor 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.

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. All of our building kits come with a standardized 50-Year Complete Warranty. In addition, you should always be sure that you get your warranty in writing to back up the promises made. All of your designs, drawing and warranty information will be electronically sent upon order completion.



WHY BUILDWAY?

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COMPANY

There are tons of steel building manufacturers on the market today, and far too many use pressure tactics and dishonest tricks by their salesmen to close a deal. They might try to pass off a canceled building as an outstanding deal that you can get if you buy right now when, in fact, this is just a trick to get an unwanted product off their hands. In reality, if a company is pushing a canceled building on you, the question you should ask is "why are they saddled with canceled buildings to begin with?" In addition, if a company waffles on delivery time, that's a red flag. You should always be given information about the complete package you're getting, including framing, sheet metal, trim, closures, framed opening materials, and fasteners. If you're also buying doors from the company, make sure you have complete information about the kind of doors you're getting before finalizing your purchase. Certainly, you're interested in the cost, but that should never be your first consideration. Putting cost ahead of other important factors will often result in a final product you won't be satisfied with. There are many different options and styles available with steel buildings, and you need to ask the right questions to get the best results. In the end, always remember that you get what you pay for, and going with a discount provider almost always results in receiving a substandard product. For more information, or to get started designing your new steel building, contact Buildway Building Systems today! for full brand name consistency.

Have More Questions? We've Got Answers.

Connect with our specialists to explore options,
pricing, and next steps, all tailored to you.

Reach Out Today



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