

Building Terminology

Anchor Bolts	Bolts set in concrete, used to anchor structural members to concrete foundation
Approval Drawing	A product drawing sent to the customer to verify design and dimensions and to verify the sales contract description of materials and services the manufacturer has agreed to furnish.
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials. An organization concerned with development of consensus standards, testing procedures and specification.
Astragal	A closure between the two leaves of a double swing or a double slide door used to close the joint.
Base Angle	A continuous angle secured to foundation to support wall panels.
Building Codes	Published regulations and ordinances established by a recognized agency describing design loads, procedures and construction details for structures. Building codes control design, construction and quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of buildings and structures within the city, county, state, etc. for which the code was adopted.
Clear Span	Building without internal columns.
Closure Strip	Sealant material formed to match either inside or outside wall or roof panel configuration, used at base, eave, rake or accessory locations to provide closure against the elements.
Corner Trim	Preformed color sheet metal trim used to close the junction of side and endwall sheets.
Damper	A baffle used to open or close the throat of ventilators.
Dead Load	The weight of the structure itself plus any permanent stationary loads.
Deflection	The transverse displacement of a structural member in the direction of load and measured from its no-load position.
Downspout	A hollow rectangular, square or round tubular section used to carry water from a gutter to the ground.
Drawing	an architectural, structural, mechanical or electrical plan, elevation or section indicating in isometric or in axonometric perspective, the detailed location, dimension, quantity or extent of material, product or member to be furnished.
Eave	The line along the top of the sidewall, formed by the intersection of roof and wall panels.
Eave Canopy	A roof extension beyond the sidewall of building. May also be cantilevered below the eave.
Eave Height	The vertical dimension from finished floor to top of eave strut.
Eave Trim	Trim used to close off top of sidewall panels in lieu of eave gutter.
Erection	The on-site assembly of pre-engineered components to form complete structure.
Fascia, Facia	Decorative trim or panel projecting from the face of a wall.
Fastener	Clips or screws used to attach panels to the structure and to each other.
Flashing	The system used to seal membrane edgings at walls, expansion joints, drains, gravel stops and other places where the membrane, cap or counter flashing shields the upper edges of the base flashing.

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Footing	A pad or mat, usually concrete, located under a column, wall, or other structural member, used to distribute loads from the member into supporting soil.
Foundation	The substructure on which a building rests.
G-90	A typical coating weight for galvanized steel sheet. Equates to .090 oz. of zinc per square foot, total both sides.
Gable	A triangular portion of the endwall of a building, directly under the sloping roof and above the eave height line.
Gage	Thickness of steel or distance between holes punched in flanges, base or splice plates.
Galvalume®	The patented trade name by Bethlehem Steel Company for the aluminum-zinc alloy applied to sheet steel for corrosion resistance.
Galvanized Steel	Steel coated with zinc for corrosion resistance.
Gauge/Gage	(1) In metal products, a number designating a specific thickness of metal sheet, or diameter of wire, cable or fastener shank tabulated in a standardized series, each of which represents a decimal fraction of an inch (or millimeter). (2) Distance in inches (or millimeters) between adjacent lines of holes or fasteners.
Glaze or Glazing	The process of installing glass in window or door openings.
Gutter	The trough that channels water from the eaves to the downspouts
Header	A horizontal member over a wall opening.
Header Trim	Trim used above a wall opening.
Hip Roof	A roof which rises by incline planes from all four sides.
Inside Corner Trim	Trim which flashes inside corners.
Insulation	Any material used in building construction to reduce heat transfer.
Lean-To	A structure having only one slope or pitch and depending on another structure for partial support.
Left Hand	If the hinges are on the left and the door opens in, you push the door with your left hand.
Left Hand Reverse	If the hinges are on the left and the door pulls away from you, you pull the door with your left hand
Liner Panel	Sheeting on inside of building; may be either full or partial height.
Live Load	Any moving or variable load which the structure must support; roof live load is usually snow load.
Louver	An opening provided with fixed or adjustable blades to allow air flow.
Mullions	Vertical member connecting two windows located side by side.
Partition	An interior dividing wall.
Peak Panel	Rib panel located along building ridge; conforms to roof slope and configuration.

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Pier	A concrete structure designed to transfer vertical load from the base of a column to a footing.
Rake	The intersection of roof and endwall.
Rake Angle	Angle attached to purlins at rake for attachment of end-wall sheets.
Rib Panel	Standard panel used on roof, liner and soffits.
Right Hand	If the hinges are on the right and the door opens in, you push the door with your right hand.
Right Hand Reverse	If the hinges are on the right and the door pulls away from you, you pull the door with your right hand.
Ridge	The highest point on the roof of the building which describes a horizontal line running the length of the building.
Roof Slope or Pitch	Slope of a roof plane expressed as a ratio of vertical rise per unit of horizontal run.
Sealant	Any material which is used to close up cracks or joints to protect against leaks.
Seismic Forces	Forces due to earth movement or earthquake.
Self-Tapping Screw	A fastener which taps it's own threads in a predrilled hole. It is for attaching panels to purlins and girts and for connecting trim and flashing.
Service Door	Swinging hinged door.
Shop Drawing	A drawing prepared by the fabricator based on a working drawing and used in a shop or on a site for assembly.
Skylight	Translucent panel formed like rib panel used on roof or walls in place of certain rib panel sheets to supply natural light to building.
Slide Door	A single or double leaf door which opens horizontally by means of overhead trolleys.
Slope	The tangent of the angle between the roof surface and the horizontal plane, expressed as a percentage, or in inches of rise per foot of horizontal distance.
Soffit	The underpart of an overhanging eave, mansard, cornice, etc.
Specification	A precise statement of a set of requirements, to be satisfied by a material, product, system or service. It is desirable that the requirements, together with their limits, should be expressed numerically in appropriate units.
Transom	Fitted over any single or double doorway to provide additional clearance for the movement of tall equipment.
Trim	The light gage metal used in the finish of a building, especially around openings and at intersections of surfaces, often referred to as flashing.
Uplift	Wind load on a building which causes a load in the upward direction.
Valley	The internal angle formed by the intersection of two sloping roof planes.
Valley Gutter	A channel used to carry off water from the "V" of roofs of multi-gabled buildings.

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Vapor Barrier	Material used to retard the flow of vapor or moisture into walls and thus prevent condensation within them.
Vented	Perforated panels used as soffit to allow air circulation for prevention of moisture buildup.
Ventilation	The process of supplying outside fresh air to, or removing air from an enclosure.
Ventilator	An accessory usually used on the roof or wall that allows air to pass through.
Wall Covering	The exterior wall skin consisting of panels or sheets and their attachments, trim fascia and weather sealants.
Wind Load	A loading representing the pressure exerted on a structure by a given wind velocity. A load caused by the wind blowing from any horizontal direction.