



Metal Framing vs. Wood Framing

When it comes to the construction of a new home or building, restoration of a damaged building, or the renovation of an existing building the question might arise of what type of framing to use, wood or metal. One thing to account for with any type of framing system is what the local building codes will approve or not approve. If one type of framing system is just not acceptable, it doesn't matter how great it is to put together. There are a number of benefits and drawbacks to each type of framing system, below are some of the pros and cons for wood framing and metal framing.

Wood Framing

Pros

- Wooden framing is stronger than metal framing. Wood can support a lot more weight, being made from heavier materials themselves. Wooden studs can be used on load bearing walls, new cabinets, doorways, and frames to stay sturdy and strong.
- Wood can last a long time. Wood has been a reliable product for centuries, and even if it wears out, it can be replaced at a reasonable cost.
- Wooden framing is easier to cut than steel framing. It is easy to cut lumber, all you need is a saw. It is also not as dangerous to cut, once metal is cut, it is best to leave it alone as it will contain many sharp edges. Wood can also be shaped and molded to whatever size you need.
- Wooden framing is more energy efficient.

Cons

- Wood can be difficult to install. You will need many tools in your belt, such as a table saw, a nailer, and traditional hammer and nails, in order to properly secure the wooden studs.
- Wood can warp and rot. When exposed to a lot of water and humidity, the wooden studs may be rendered useless.
- Wood is combustible. In the event of a fire a wood framed building is potentially more dangerous.

Metal Framing

Pros

- Steel framing weighs less than wood. They are lighter by nature, making them easier to store in bulk and less difficult to maintain once installed.
- Steel framing tends not to warp or rot. They do not wear and tear over time and you have a better chance of having straight rooflines, walls, and floors. You also never have to worry about insect damage.
- Steel framing is non-combustible. Unlike wood, steel is not combustible. For this reason in some areas, steel framing is required by code.

Cons

- Steel framing is more difficult to cut and shape. There are metal cutting saws available, however they have a high learning curve and can be very dangerous for the average person to use, not to mention they are ear piercing loud.
- Steel framing is more expensive. Steel framing tends to be around 10 to 15 percent more than wood framing. Also the labor rates are generally higher, as contractors are more familiar with wood framing.
- Steel framing can rust. Like all metal, steel can rust. It should not be used in areas that could be exposed to water for a long period of time.
- Steel framing is not as energy efficient as wood framing.

When it comes down to it, it is completely your choice (depending on building code) if you choose wood or metal framing. They both have their advantages and disadvantages, and ultimately the choice could just depend on the type of project you are working on. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

Events

- February 1: ACA Luncheon
- February 6: SAMA Luncheon
- February 7: IFMA Luncheon
- February 13: SACA Luncheon
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 14: AAFAME Luncheon
- February 15: BOMA Austin Luncheon
- February 15: SAABE
- February 21: IIASA Luncheon
- February 21: SA BOMA Luncheon
- February 22: IREM Luncheon
- February 22: IWSA Luncheon
- February 27-28: TASBO Expo

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February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 ACA Luncheon	2	3
4	5	6 SAMA Luncheon	7 IFMA Luncheon	8	9	10
11	12	13 SACA Luncheon	14 Valentine's Day AAFAME Luncheon	15 BOMA Austin Luncheon SAABE	16	17
18	19	20	21 IIASA Luncheon SA BOMA Luncheon	22 IREM Luncheon IWSA Luncheon	23	24
25	26	27 -----TASBO	28 EXPO-----			

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