

Metal Mart Meanings

A dictionary of terms and phrases commonly used in the steel industry to help guide you through your metal journey.

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A

Accessories – Supplemental pieces of a project, typically used for proper installation; fasteners, sealant, closures, etc.

Acknowledgement – Confirmation of a material order being received by the plant

Anchor Bolt – Bolts used to connect the main supports of a building to the concrete foundation.

Anchor Bolt Plan – Plans showing anchor bolt details like bolt size, location, and spacing for a building; used to prepare the foundation for building erection.

Angle Trim – An “L” shaped trim piece, often symmetrical on each side

Awning – A roof-like structure extending off of a wall to provide rain or sun cover; typically installed over door ways

B

Bare – Uncoated; Plain

Barndominium – A metal building or structure in which the interior has been converted into living space; a barn home

Base Angle – A light gauge “L” shaped steel member used on the perimeter of a building foundation for attaching wall sheets at the bottom edge.

Base Bracket – A small support used to hold and attach a vertical steel member to concrete

Base Drip – A trim piece used as a barrier between the bottom of wall panels and the foundation or ground

Base Plate – A flat piece of steel, often welded at the bottom of a building’s columns, for securing the main framing members to the concrete foundation

Bay – A section of a building between major vertical structural members; space between main frame columns

Beam – A relatively long piece of structural steel used for main frame building support; typically heavy gauge members

Bill of Lading (BOL) – Paperwork which shows the contents and details of transported material

Bird Screen – Screen which is installed inside a vent to keep birds and large insects out

Bracing – Additional material used for added strength and stability

Bracket – A small support used to hold and attach steel members

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Building Code – A set of rules and regulations which specify minimum standards for construction

Bundle – A quantity of material that is bound together

Butyl Tape – See “Tape Sealant”

C

Cable Bracing – Cables installed in an “X” pattern between two main frames on a building for added stability and load transfers

Caulk Tape – See “Tape Sealant”

Caulking – A substance, typically silicon based, used for sealing small gaps or overlaps to ensure weather tightness

Cee – A substructural member shaped similar to the letter “C”; also called a closed cee

Center Core – Cylindrical cardboard tube used inside coil stock for protection and shaping

Chalking – Degrading of a coating system, typically caused by exposure to UV rays

Channel – See “Receiver Channel”

Clear Span – The distance between two vertical main frames, also called free span

Clip – A small accessory piece that fastens to the underlying structure and supports or holds the panels in some standing seam systems

Closure – Pieces used to fill gaps created by panel ribs, typically made of foam to match the panel profile

Coating – A paint system applied to bare or primed material for protection from corrosion and sometimes colored for aesthetic purposes

Coil Stock – Wide rolls of flat steel used for forming substructural or panelized products

Cold Rolled – A manufacturing process in which the steel is pressed with the pressure of a roller at room temperature

Collateral Load – Permanent weight added to the interior of a building system

Column – The main vertical support of a structure

Commodity – A product based more on price than quality or longevity.

Component – A part or element of a larger whole

Concealed Fastener Panel – A metal sheet which is attached in such a way that the fasteners are hidden after installation

Continuous Ridge Vent – Box-like addition installed along the ridge which allows airflow into and out of a metal building

Corner Trim – A trim piece which covers the vertical panel edges where two walls meet

Cover – A roof only structure with no walls

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Cover Sheet – An extra panel on the top and/or bottom of a bundle that protects the material underneath

Cupola – A decorative, light weight addition to the top of a building with four small walls and a roof, often topped with a weathervane

D

Damper – A movable plate inside a ventilator which regulates draft

Dead Load – Total weight of a building system and all the components

Dektite – See “Roof Boot”

Diameter – The distance across the middle of a circle to each edge

Dieform Flashing – A specialty transition piece which is flat on one length and formed to match the panels on the other length

Dieform Ridge – A specialty ridge cap which is formed like a panel and then bent in half to create a weather tight ridge cap

Dimensions – The measurement or size of something, typically in width, length, and height

Domestic – Something produced or manufactured inside the country

Downspout – A straight, hollow trim piece that guides rain to run from the gutter to the ground

Downspout Strap – A small strip of metal which attaches a downspout to the wall

Drive Pin – A fastener used to attach non-structural members to concrete

Drop Column – See “Interior Column”

E

Eave – The lower border of a roof that at the bottom of the sloped edge

Eave Extension – A lengthened portion of the roof which hangs over the wall at the bottom of the sloped edge

Eave Height – The measurement from the ground or foundation to the eave

Eave Strut – A substructural member similar to a cee that is bent to match the slope of a roof

Eave Trim – A trim piece that fastens on top of the roof under the panels and covers the top of the wall panels

Elbow – A hollow trim piece which attaches to the top or bottom of a downspout and is bent at an angle to direct the flow of rain

Embeds – A base plate with studs or anchors attached to the bottom which get placed into new concrete

Endwall – The side of the building where the slope of the roof meets the top of the wall; the width of a building

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Endwall Frame – The structural and substructural supports that make up the endwall.

Engineer Stamps – A registered seal of approval on building drawings, designs, and plans which prove the building has been engineered

Engineered Building – A structure which is designed and stamped by an engineer to meet building code standards

Erection – To build or construct

Erection Drawings – A set of plans which detail the pieces of a building, used for approvals and constructing

Exposed Fastener Panel - A metal sheet which is attached in such a way that the fasteners are visible after installation - Also referred to as a through fastened panel

F

Fabricate – To make by skill or labor; construct

Fading – Degrading color pigments in a coating system, typically caused by exposure to UV rays

Fascia – The face of a building; the outside edges of a roof

Fastener – Various devices used to attach one piece of material to another; bolts, screws, pop rivets, etc.

Fiberglass Panel – A skylight made of fiber reinforced plastic that matches a metal panel profile

Field – Job site or construction area

Field Screw – See “Self-Drill Screw” or “Wood Screw”

Finial – A relatively small, ornamental feature at the top, typically used to decoratively cap the top of a fence post

Fire Resistant – Withstands or inhibits fire for a period of time

Flange – Horizontal section of a structural or substructural member which resists bending movement of the member

Flashing – Thin piece of material installed to prevent water infiltration at a joint

Footing – Concrete with rebar reinforcements that is poured into a trench, typically around the perimeter of a building when a full concrete slab is not needed

Fork Lift – A vehicle with a pronged device in front for lifting and carrying heavy loads

Foundation – Prepared ground or base on which a structure rests, typically concrete with rebar reinforcements

Frame – A rigid structure used for support in a building

Framing – The process or manner of constructing a frame

Framing Screw – A fastener specially designed to attached substructural steel to the main support without welding

Free Span –The unsupported distance between two vertical main frames, also called clear span

G

Gable – The shape of a roof that has two sloped planes which meet at a central peak; ~~also called an “A” frame~~

Gable Extension – A roof which stretches out over the endwall on the sloped side of a building and has no vertical supports

Gable Inset – A roof which stretches out over the endwall on the sloped side of a building that has vertical supports

Galvanized – A coating of zinc applied to bare metal, typically by means of submerging the metal in a high temperature bath, to protect the material from corrosion

Galvalume – A coating system which contains zinc, aluminum, and silicon used to protect the base metal from corrosion

Gasket Foam – See “Closure”

Gauge – A form of measurement which describes the thickness of metal

Girt – A horizontal structural or substructural member in a framed wall used to provide lateral support

Grade – The tensile strength of steel

Gusset Plate – A thick steel plate used to connect structural beams at a joint or connection point

Gutter – A trim piece used at the eaves of a roof to carry off rainwater to a downspout

Gutter End Cap – A trim piece which is shaped like the profile of a gutter with tabbed edges used to close off the end of a gutter

Gutter Strap – A trim piece which connects the face of the gutter to the roof for added stability

H

Hand Seamer – A small manual tool used for crisp and accurate bends on sheet metal

Hardware – Tools, implements, and other items or equipment used to supplement or install a project

Hat Section – A substructural member which is shaped similarly to a top hat

Head Trim – A channel shaped trim piece used to cap off the cut edge of a panel, such as around doors or windows

Header – A horizontal structural or substructural member used to secure the top or bottom of a door or window opening

Hem – An edge of material which has been folded back to protect the raw edge

Hip Cap – A trim piece which caps off the side peaks on a hip roof

Hip Roof – The shape of a roof that has four sloped planes which meet at a central peak and join at smaller peaks on each corner

Hot Rolled – A manufacturing process in which steel is roll formed into shape at a high temperature, typically over 1000°

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I

I Beam – A structural beam that has a center vertical web and two horizontal flanges shaped like the letter “I”

ID (Inside Dimensions) – The measurement from an interior edge to an interior edge

Impact Resistant – Withstands or inhibits impact for a period of time

Impax – See “Framing Screw”

Import – Something produced or manufactured outside the country

Independent Contractor – A person or entity hired to perform work for another entity as a nonemployee

Inside Angle Trim – A trim piece with two flat sides which covers a joint or seam on an interior angle

Inside Corner – A joint or seam where two walls meet at an interior angle

Inside Corner Trim - A trim piece with two flat sides and sculpted legs which covers a joint or seam on an interior angle

Installation – To connect or place material so that it is ready for use

Installation Guide – A pamphlet which instructs or provides reference on the proper way to connect or place material

Insulation – A material used to cover or line the interior of a structure that reduces or prevents the transfer or leakage of heat

Insulation Tape – A long narrow strip with an adhesive surface used to seal or bind insulation

Interior Column – A structural member used on the interior of a building, typically for added support and stability of a main frame

Invoice – An itemized bill for goods sold or services provided which includes payment information

J

J Channel - A channel shaped trim piece used to cap off the cut edge of a low profile panel, such as around doors or windows

Jamb – The vertical sides of a door or window

Jamb Cover - A channel shaped trim piece used to cap off the structural or substructural members, such as around doors or windows

Jamb Trim - A channel shaped trim piece used to cap off the cut edge of a panel, such as around doors or windows

Jack Jumper - A building engineering & fabrication company used by Metal Mart in the 1990s and early 2000s

K

Kick-Out – A triangular shaped end piece that is cut and secured at the bottom of a downspout to divert rainwater away from the base of a structure

Kynar 500 – See “PVDF”

L

Lap Screw – A fastener used for attaching sheet metal to sheet metal or trim pieces to sheet metal, also called a stitch screw

Lean-to – A single slope structure that attaches to a wall of a building

Length – The measure of the greatest dimension of a piece of material or structure measured from end to end

Linear Foot – A 12 inch measurement down the length, also called a lineal foot

Liner Panel – An interior panel used to cover the structural and substructural members inside a building

Live Load – The total weight of a building system, all of its components, and any permanent weight may be added to the building; the dead load plus the collateral load

Load – Forces which cause stress, deformations, or displacement to a structure or its components

Louver – A wall component made of a set of angled slats or flat strips fixed at regular intervals which allows air and light to pass through

Low E – A thin reflective insulation barrier which reduces the flow of heat and infiltration of moisture

Low Profile Panel – A panel which has a smaller high rib height, typically an inch or less

Low Profile Ridge Vent – A roofing component which caps the ridge while allowing air flow through the top of a roof

M

Main Frame – The structural components which provide the primary shape, dimensions and support in a structure

Manufacture – To make, product, or fabricate a product

Manufacture Recommended – A suggestion as to the best course of action supplied by the producer of a product

Masonry – mortar work such as stone, clay, brick, or concrete

Mastic – See “Tape Sealant”

Mechanically Seamed – A process of connecting two pieces of material using a specialized piece of equipment

Metallic – Relating to or resembling metal

Mezzanine – An intermediate floor in a building which is typically open to the floor below

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Milk Run Truck – See “Route Truck”

Monarch – A company owned building fabrication company used by Metal Mart for building frame fabrication

MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) – A collection of information about a particular material or substance as it relates to safe practices

N

Nibbler – A power tool used to cut sheet metal

O

OD (Outside Dimensions) – The measurement from an exterior edge to an exterior edge

OFC (Open Face Channel) – See “Receiver Channel”

Oil Canning – A naturally occurring deformation or buckling of sheet material, particularly common with flat surfaces

On Center – To start and end a measurement from the middle of an object rather than an interior or exterior edge

Open Face Channel – A substructural member shaped similar the letter “U”; also called an open cee

Order – A request for material to be made or produced for purchase

Outside Angle Trim - A trim piece with two flat sides which covers a joint or seam on an exterior angle

Outside Corner - A joint or seam where two walls meet at an interior angle

Outside Corner Trim - A trim piece with two flat sides and sculpted legs which covers a joint or seam on an exterior angle

Overhang – to hang or extend over or outward

P

Palletized – To place, stack, or transport material on a pallet

Pan Condition – The bend pattern on the flat portion of a metal panel

Pancake Screw – A fastener with a flat top head

Panel Profile – The geometrical shape of sheet metal

Panel Shear – A specialty machine used to cut metal panels

Parapet Cap – A channel shaped trim piece used to cap off the top of a wall

Partition Wall – A wall which is used to separate spaces inside a building

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Peak – The highest point of a roof

Peak Box – A specialty trim piece used to cap off the rake trim and ridge cap on the sloped edge of the roof

Perforated – Pierced with a hole or holes

Personnel Door – See “Walk door”

Pillar – A vertical structure used for support or ornamental purposes on a building

Pipe Flashing – See “Roof Boot”

Pitch – A measurement which describes the slope of a roof and is expressed as a ratio of the vertical rise to the horizontal run typically measured as the vertical rise over a 12’ horizontal distance

Plant – See “Producing Plant”

Plastic Film – A thin adhesive barrier which is used to protect the paint finish on metal prior to installation

Polycarbonate Panel – A thermoplastic sheet used when light transmission is needed

Pop Rivet – See “Rivet”

Portal Frame – A rigid structural frame consisting of two vertical columns connected by a horizontal member at the top

Primer – A preparatory coating applied to materials before painting which ensures better adhesion and increased durability for the paint system

Product Data Sheet – A sheet or collection of information about a product or material

Producing Plant - A facility where material is made, formed, or fabricated

Production – The process of making or manufacturing a product or material

Punch – To drill, cut, or form a hole

Punch Code – A series of letters or numbers which distinguishes a pattern of holes

Purlin – A member in a roof frame that runs the length of a building across the main rafters and supports the installation of roof panels

PVDF (Polyvinylidene fluoride) – A high performance, resin-based, colored coating system that provides excellent resistance to weathering overtime and protects the base metal from corrosion

Q

Quote – An estimate provided to customers for the price of a list of materials

R

R Value – A measurement which reflects the ability of insulation to prevent the flow of heat in or out

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Radiant Barrier – A thin type insulation which blocks the transfer of radiant heat

Rake –The edge of the sloped side of a roof

Rake Angle – A thin piece of structural iron used along the sloped side of a roof

Rake End Cap – A specialty trim pieces used to close off the bottom edge of a rake trim

Rake Tie-In Trim – A trim piece which is used to transition from a wall to a sloped edge of a roof, also called a reverse ML

Rake Trim - A trim piece which is used to cap along the sloped side of a roof

Rat Guard – A trim piece used at the bottom of the wall

Receiver Channel – A substructural member shaped similar to the letter “U”; also called an open cee

Rectangular Tubing – A hollow structural member with two long sides and two short sides to form the outside

Red Oxide Primer – A primer coating that protects steel from corrosion and enhances paint adhesion

Retro-Boot – A roof boot which allows side installation using a zipper piece to flash a roof penetration

Retrofit – To install new material over something previously constructed without tear-off

Reverse ML Trim - A trim piece which is used to transition from a wall to a sloped edge of a roof, also called a rake tie-in

Rib – A series of symmetrical bends in a panel which strengthens the metal and provides a distinctive aesthetic style

Ridge – The length at the peak of the roof

Ridge Cap Trim – A trim piece which caps off the top peak of the roof

Ridge Vent – A specialty piece which allows air flow at the peak of the roof

Rigid Frame – The load-resisting skeleton made of structural members which resists movement induced at joints

Rivet – A short metal pin or bolt used for holding together two pieces of metal in which the headless end is mostly flattened

Rivet Gun – A specialty tool used to install rivets

Roll Up Door – A door which is opened by traveling vertically along tracks and gathered in a canister roll at the top

Roof Boot – A flashing piece which seals the section of the roof around a penetration

Roofing Square – A measurement which is equal to 100 square feet of surface on a roof

Rope Seal – See “Tape Sealant”

Round Tubing – A hollow structural member with a circular outside

Route Truck – A shipment which delivers materials to a specific area

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S

Schechl – One of the world's leading manufacturers of bending and shearing equipment for the processing and production of thin metal sheets

Sealant – Used to fill gaps or joints between two surfaces

Seamer – A specialty tool used to fold the joints between panels

Seconds – Non prime material sold as is with no warranty at a discounted price

Seismic Load – The stress of earthquake-generated agitation as it applies to the structure of a building

Self-Drill Screw – A fastener used for attaching sheet metal to steel structural or substructural members

Shear Load – The lateral force which induces stress on the wall of a structure

Sheeted – To be covered or enveloped in pieces of metal

Sheeter Bit – A drill bit specially designed to drill through metal sheets

Shell – A building structure with empty space between the exterior walls

Sidewall – The side of the building where the bottom of the roof meets the wall; the length of a building

Single Slope - The shape of a roof that has a single sloped plane

Skirt – The surface which conceals or protects the bottom or underside of housing

Slab – A large, thick, flat piece of concrete which serves as the foundation of a structure, typically with rebar reinforcements

Slope – The incline of a roof surface which is measured by the pitch

Snips – A scissor-like tool used for cutting thin metal

Snow Load – The downward force on a building's roof by the weight of accumulated snow and ice

Snow Stop – A trim piece which prevents the dangerous movement of snow or ice on a sloped roof

SMP (Siliconized Modified Polyester) - A colored coating system that provides resistance to weathering and protects the base metal from corrosion

Soffit – The underside of a roof overhang

Solar Emissivity – The ability of a material to emit energy as thermal radiation

Solar Reflectance – The ratio of solar energy that falls on a surface to the amount reflected

Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) – A value which incorporates both solar emissivity and solar reflectance

Span – The full extent or measurement of something from end to end

Splice – To join or connect two pieces of similar material at the ends

Square Tubing – A hollow structural member with four equal length sides to form the outside

Standing Seam – A concealed fastener metal roofing system which features vertical or trapezoidal legs with a flat space in between

Stitch Screw – A fastener used for attaching sheet metal to sheet metal or trim pieces to sheet metal, also called a lap screw

Strapping – thin strips used to hold vapor barrier or insulation in place between structural and substructural members

Stretch Out – The measurement of material when it is completely flat

Structural Steel – A category of steel used for the main support of a building structure due to its ability to support high loads

Substrate – An underlying substance or layer

Substructural Steel - A category of steel used for the secondary support of a building structure

T

Tape Sealant – used to ensure weather tightness when overlapping or seaming two pieces of sheet metal or trim together

TDI (Texas Department of Insurance) – The governing body which oversees and regulates the insurance industry in Texas

Threshold – A strip of wood, metal, or stone forming the bottom of a doorway

Transition Trim – A trim piece which prevents leaking at the joint where two different pitches meet

Trim – Finishing pieces used to cap off or cover edges or joints

Trim Break – A specialty piece of equipment that bends thin, flat metal sheets

Trim Profile - The geometrical shape and dimensions of a trim piece

Truss – A framework which supports a roof or other structure

Turbo Shear – A specialty tool which connects to a drill used for cutting thin metal

U

UL (Underwriters Laboratories) – An organization which tests and approves products for consumer safety

UL Rating – An evaluation or certification which indicates that a product has been tested and recognized for safety and sustainability standards

Underlayment – A water resistant or waterproof barrier installed under roofing materials

Uplift – The stress on a roofing system which is created when the air pressure below exceeds the air pressure above

Utility Grade – See Commodity

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V

Valley – The line on the roof where two slopes meet at the bottom edges

Valley Trim – A trim piece used to flash and cover the joint at a valley on the roof

Vented Closure - Pieces used to fill gaps created by panel ribs which allow air flow in and out

W

Walk Door – A door system specifically designed for metal buildings and commercial applications

Warranty – A written document outlining the manufacture’s product longevity expectations

Web – Vertical section of a structural or substructural member which takes on the shear force and weight load

Wide Flange Beam - A structural beam that has a center vertical web and two wide, horizontal flanges

Width – The dimension measurement of a piece of material or structure measured from end to end opposite the length

Wind Column – A fixed base structural or substructural member used to transfer the endwall forces to the concrete slab

Wind Load – The stress placed on the exterior of a structure by wind

Wood Screw - A fastener used for attaching sheet metal to wood structure or decking

X

X Bracing– See “Cable Bracing”

Y

Y –

Z

Zee – A substructural member shaped similar to the letter “Z”