

Standing Seam vs. Exposed Fastener

A Comparison Guide

	STANDING SEAM	EXPOSED FASTENER	EXPLANATION
LONGEVITY	✓		Standing seam metal roofs typically have a longer life as compared to exposed fastener roofs. Fasteners that penetrate the surface of a metal roof can impact the integrity and longevity of the roof.
LESS REQUIRED MAINTENANCE	✓		When comparing standing seam metal roofs and exposed fastener systems, exposed fastener systems will require more frequent maintenance such as checking for loose, damaged, or withdrawing fasteners.
CHEAPER COST		✓	Exposed fastener metal roofs typically cost less than standing seam roofs. Why? Exposed fastener panels are usually wider, thinner, and are coated with a lower quality paint system.
ENGINEERING OPTIONS	✓		Engineered building materials are becoming more popular, especially in regions where major weather events are common. Quality standing seam metal roof systems, from an engineered building material perspective, are one of the best options in areas where wind uplift, air leakage, and water penetration are important.
SUPERIOR WARRANTIES	✓		While both roofing systems typically come with substrate and coating warranties, only quality standing seam metal roofs are backed by a weathertight warranty which covers the roof against leaks or failures in certain conditions.
THERMAL MOVEMENT	✓		Restriction of thermal movement within the metal panels can cause problems such as oil canning and fastener withdrawal. Standing seam metal roofing systems typically are not double pinned and, therefore, can expand and contract more easily.
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	✓	✓	Both standing seam and exposed fastener roofing systems can utilize cool roof coatings which reflect ultraviolet rays, potentially reducing the heat transferred into the building. This can result in a 7%-15% energy savings.
LOW-SLOPE ROOF OPTIONS	✓		Exposed fastener metal roof systems typically require a minimum 3/12 slope in order to allow water drainage. As such, they are not recommended for low slope applications. Standing seam metal roof systems can allow for a roof slope as low as 0.5/12 and still provide proper drainage.
DIY PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES		✓	Exposed fastener roofing systems are easier to install, making it a better option for DIY projects. Standing seam metal roofing is more difficult to install. MRA recommends installation of standing seam metal roofing be performed by a trusted and experienced installer.
ARCHITECTURAL FREEDOM	✓		Both roofing systems can be installed on structures with difficult design features. Metal roofing's ability to accommodate all aspects of a roof, regardless of the complexity, is why many architects suggest choosing a metal roof system.