Cold-Form vs. Wood Post-Frame

Compare the complete building, from the frame to the foundation.

Cold-Form steel brings consistent materials, flexible layouts and a coordinated engineered package to shops, farm buildings, commercial spaces and barndominiums.

CONSIDER	DIRECTFRAME COLD-FORM	WHAT TO CHECK IN A WOOD PACKAGE
Engineering	A frame designed for your site and required loads, with stamped building and foundation drawings.	Confirm the same design loads, connection details, bracing and foundation scope are included.
Straight, stable framing	Roll-formed galvanized Cee and Zee sections avoid the moisture-related shrinking and splitting associated with wood.	Wood properties and moisture movement require appropriate material selection, connections and detailing.
Rot and pests	Steel framing does not rot and is not food for termites. The zinc coating helps resist corrosion.	Check wood treatment, ground-contact details, drainage and the long-term termite protection plan.
Fire performance	Steel framing is noncombustible and does not add fuel to a fire.	Wood is combustible. Compare the complete wall and roof assemblies and any required fire ratings.
Space and flexibility	Clear-span options, openings and accessories can be coordinated around how you intend to use the building.	Verify clear spans, post and truss locations, bracing and future additions against the same plans.
Assembly and schedule	Factory-formed framing uses bolt-and-screw connections without onsite framing welds. Drawings guide assembly.	Compare site cutting, carpentry, crew availability and installation time for the proposed design.
Whole-project value	Evaluate foundation design, freight, labor, upkeep and possible insurance differences along with the package price.	Compare equal scopes. The lowest kit price does not establish the lowest completed or lifetime cost.

Both systems can be engineered for a suitable project. Steel needs corrosion and moisture detailing; insulation and the full building assembly determine comfort and fire performance.

Share your plans. We will help choose the right system.

Stamped building and foundation drawings | Supply | Installation available

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Technical reading: SFIA / BuildSteel: material properties SFIA: total project costs