Cold-Form vs. Tube Steel

Look beyond the exterior panels to the system supporting them.

DirectFrame Cold-Form packages combine galvanized Cee and Zee framing, site-specific engineering and a defined assembly plan. Use the same requirements when comparing a tube-frame quote.

CONSIDER	DIRECTFRAME COLD-FORM	WHAT TO CHECK IN A TUBE PACKAGE
Engineered system	The members, bracing, connections and foundations are coordinated for your intended use and site loads.	Verify that the quoted tube frame, connections and anchorage are engineered for the same site conditions.
Stamped drawings	Stamped building and foundation drawings help define the package and support the permitting process.	Ask which drawings and calculations are included, and which approvals or foundation services cost extra.
Corrosion protection	Galvanized framing has a protective zinc coating. Open sections allow accessible surfaces to be inspected.	Coatings vary. Confirm protection inside and outside the tubing, plus treatment of cuts, welds and connections.
Water management	Open Cee and Zee shapes avoid an enclosed tube cavity. Exposure-appropriate drainage and detailing still matter.	Closed sections need appropriate sealing, drainage or other protection where water could collect.
Assembly	Bolt-and-screw framing connections do not require onsite welding of the building frame.	Tube systems may use bolts, sleeves or welds. Confirm connection quality and any onsite welding or coating repairs.
Usable space	Clear-span options, door openings, heights and accessories are developed around your plans.	Compare interior columns, bracing, spans and clearances using the same layout, rather than gauge alone.
Price and schedule	Compare the complete package, delivery, foundation, installation and upkeep. Installation is available through DirectFrame.	Ask for a matching scope, confirmed lead time, warranty and maintenance expectations before deciding.

Tube steel can also be cold-formed and can provide excellent engineered performance. Shape or gauge alone does not establish strength, lifespan or cost; the complete design and detailing matter.

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

Stamped building and foundation drawings | Supply | Installation available

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Technical reading: Steel Tube Institute: galvanizing Steel Tube Institute: water management