



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PRODUCT FAQs -----

What are the most significant features of the VersaTube Building System?

The most prominent feature of the VersaTube Building System is the patented swaged connection system – which allows one steel frame component to easily slip into another steel component, i.e. a rafter section into a peak or a side post – resulting in an easier and faster assembly. This also allows for the system to be designed with components that are manageable in size for easy handling and compact packaging.

Another key feature is the mandrel bent side posts and peaks. By supporting the tube with a steel mandrel during the bending process, the side posts and peaks are able to maintain maximum tube strength and give the product a better appearance. Conversely, the crush bending employed in other square or rectangular tube systems oftentimes significantly weakens the steel tube and detracts from the look of the structure.

What material is used to make the VersaTube framing system? Is it rust resistant?

The majority of frame components are made of 2” x 3” in-line galvanized steel tubing. All bent components are made with 14-gauge tubing, while the straight components use high-strength 15-gauge tubing. Components that utilize 2” x 2” square material are made with 15-gauge tubing.

The premium in-line galvanized steel tubing achieves a salt spray test of 840 hours due to the presence of a final lacquer or polymer coating applied over the protective zinc. By comparison, normal G-90 galvanized steel has a salt spray performance of approximately 400 hours. This equates to significant rust protection for the framing of the structure.

What is the standard on-center spacing of the frame trusses?

The framing used for garages and carports generally has 4’ or 5’ on-center spacing. Area loading requirements or more complex buildings may require a dealer to configure a structure with reduced on-center spacing.

How are the frames anchored to the ground? And, when do structures require truss braces?

There are two standard anchoring types. If the frame structure is to be mounted to a concrete pad, footing or stem wall, then traditional concrete wedge anchor bolts should be used and supplied by the dealer. VersaTube offers a 30” rebar anchor that is intended for use when a structure is mounted directly to dirt or gravel surface. It is recommended that concrete be poured in a posthole when the rebar anchors are used. There are several other types of anchoring that can be used by the installer, so long as they are sufficient to meet the wind loading requirements for the area. Please refer to installation instructions for visual descriptions of anchoring applications.

Generally, structures greater than 20' wide require truss bracing. However, in areas with increased ground snow and wind load requirements and units with 12'-12.5'H sidewalls, some 18' and 20' wide structures may require truss braces or collar tie brackets. Truss braces need to be installed only on the inside truss sections, not on the first or the last truss. The use of truss braces reduces the potential interior ground-to-peak clearance and must be considered for vehicles and equipment requiring additional headroom.

What are the engineering loads for the VersaTube system?

VersaTube Building System structures are designed for a minimum of 20 PSF (pounds per square foot) ground snow loads and 70 MPH wind loads. However, most of the standard products achieve greater minimum load levels beginning at 40 PSF and 90 MPH.

Engineering information is available from VersaTube Building Systems for permitting requirements when necessary. Please contact customer service for details.

How does the cost of VersaTube garages compare to those of post-frame or other pre-engineered metal buildings (i.e. red iron)?

In general, the cost of a finished structure framed with the VersaTube[®] Building System is very competitive with costs for an equivalent-sized post-frame package. While the material costs may be higher for the all-steel VersaTube framing, the savings from installation labor and required equipment usually more than make up the difference. Most red iron packages cost more than either post-frame or VersaTube frame structures, due to the higher job site costs related to sometimes heavy equipment needed to construct such buildings.

What is the warranty for VersaTube Building System products?

All complete package kits are warranted for 20 years.