

STANDING SEAM VS. EXPOSED FASTENER

A COMPARISON GUIDE

	STANDING SEAM	EXPOSED FASTENER	EXPLANATION
LONGEVITY	✓		Standing seam metal roofing tends to last longer than exposed fastener roofs because the fasteners don't penetrate the surface of the metal, which helps to preserve the integrity of the roof. Plus, metal roofing as a whole lasts longer than many other roof types, such as shingles, shake, or tiles.
LESS REQUIRED MAINTENANCE	✓		When compared to standing seam roofs, exposed fastener systems require more frequent maintenance to check for withdrawing, loose, or damaged fasteners (including the washer). Both types require yearly maintenance to ensure the roof is free of debris and the paint system is holding up.
CHEAPER COST		✓	One of the main benefits to choosing an exposed fastener metal roof is that it's less expensive as a one-time cost. There are many reasons for the lower price, including that exposed fastener panels are wider, thinner, have lower quality paint systems, and require less accessories.
ENGINEERING OPTIONS	✓		Engineered building materials are becoming more popular, especially in hurricane/high-wind zones. Engineered standing seam metal roofs are one of the best options, especially if it adheres to testing standards for wind uplift, air leakage, water penetration, impact resistance, and fire.
SUPERIOR WARRANTIES	✓		Standing seam roof systems often have weathertight warranty options promising that the roofing system won't leak or fail in specific conditions. Both systems may have paint and substrate warranties, but most exposed fastener roofing manufacturers won't warrant systems against leaking.
THERMAL MOVEMENT	✓		Restricting the thermal movement of metal panels can cause problems, such as oil canning, fastener withdrawal, and more. Standing seam panels generally aren't double pinned and can better expand and contract, especially if slider/expansion clips are used or if it's a snap-lock profile.
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	✓	✓	Both standing seam and exposed fastener roof systems utilize cool metal roofing materials, which are painted or coated metal products that reflect the sun's energy to dissipate heat. Cool roofs help to reduce the heat that is transferred into the building and can offer 7% to 15% in energy savings.
LOW-SLOPE ROOF OPTIONS	✓		Exposed fastener systems are NOT recommended on low-slope applications and require a minimum 3/12 slope to allow water to drain. On the other hand, standing seam systems are suitable for buildings or homes that have down to a .5/12 pitch (mechanical seam profiles).
DIY PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES		✓	Since exposed fastener systems are easier to install, there's more of an opportunity for home or building owners to perform the installation themselves as a DIY project. With standing seam metal roofing, it's best to hire a knowledgeable, experienced, and trusted installer.
ARCHITECTURAL FREEDOM	✓		Both standing seam metal roof and wall systems can be used on structures with many different planes and sophisticated, complex designs, which is a common reason that architects are specifying these systems more often.