

'Holistic' Support for Green Buildings

Compared to many other building materials, perforated metals offer a more sustainable building material option.

Perforated metal is well known in the architectural field for its aesthetic and acoustical qualities. But in addition, perforated metal also represents one of the most environmentally friendly building materials available.

Here are 5 reasons why perforated metal is an attractive option when constructing green buildings:

Fully recyclable material

Perforated metals have a high level of recycled content - sometimes as high as 100 percent. Perforators typically recycle all waste materials, while the finished product is also fully recyclable once its architectural lifecycle ends. Although the product itself is often made of recycled materials, it shows no decline in quality compared to non-recyclable alternatives. In addition, the extended lifespan of perforated metals means that, over time, a lot of material can be saved.

Optimizing energy performance

By helping to reduce HVAC burdens, perforated metals reduce energy costs – saving money over time. One of the primary ways perforated metals increase energy efficiency is by helping to keep the system clean while still allowing ventilation; the cleaner it is, the less energy it takes to function at the desired level.

Earning LEED credits

LEED credits not only help to ensure that a building is efficient, but also inform the general public that you're on the forefront of green technology - working to reduce the carbon footprint. Additionally, some areas offer tax incentives for becoming LEED certified. Perforated metals can help you earn LEED points by improving energy efficiency through light filtration and HVAC performance.

Light filtration

Perforated metals can function as exterior shades to filter natural light into a building, shifting sunlight to keep the interior cooler. Screening sun coming in through windows can ensure your HVAC system doesn't have to work harder than necessary to keep the building at a comfortable temperature.

Reducing HVAC burden and impact

Perforated metal panels help control airflow and reduce noise pollution from HVAC systems. Large, lightweight perforated panels can also contribute to efficiencies by protecting the system from mold and debris. As mentioned above, this contributes to reducing wasted energy and lessening maintenance needs. An added benefit is that should the system need maintenance, these lightweight panels make it easily accessible for a technician.

Green is more than a color

The term “green” refers to is much more than a trend these days; it includes the consideration of overall aesthetics and design within the functionality of a space. So, in addition to the sustainable benefits perforated materials bring to the table, they also help your design make a statement. After all, several metals are suitable for perforation, allowing designers to mix different colors and textures in their designs, as well as a host of options for hole size, shape, and pattern. This makes it easy to find an option that suits both your design and functional needs. Furthermore, perforated metals can be cut and formed into complex shapes for more visual interest. While their lightweight design allows for worry-free mounting to a variety of surfaces, indoors or out.

Considering this level of versatility, it’s no surprise that architects and designers have used perforated metals in a range of applications, including privacy screens, light-filtering awnings, room dividers, and even sculptures. If you’re looking to improve both the environmental and aesthetic impact of your building, contact an IPA member about adding a green punch to your design.