

How Perforated Metals Support Greener Buildings

Light Filtration, HVAC Applications Contribute to Design-Friendly LEED Points

Sustainable architecture isn't a fleeting trend. Increasing environmental concerns, coupled with steadily rising material costs, ensure that architects, builders and contractors will remain focused on using resources wisely while maximizing energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Green Building Council has institutionalized this commitment through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. LEED attaches points to various criteria including sustainability, water and energy efficiency, materials use, indoor air quality and innovation in design. Point totals can earn a silver, gold or platinum LEED rating.

Let's look at about one simple, low-cost way you can earn LEED points: Add some punch to your design through the use of perforated metals.

The Sustainability of Perforated Metals

Compared to many other building materials, perforated metals offer a more sustainable option. Metals usually have a high level of recycled content, sometimes 100 percent. Perforators typically recycle all waste materials, and the finished product is fully recyclable after its architectural lifecycle ends.

But perforated metals' sustainability involves more than recycling. Makers of the two main metals used, steel and aluminum, have been at the forefront of efforts to reduce carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the long lifespan of perforated metals means that, over time, you can save a lot of material.

2 Key LEED Applications

You can use perforated metals in your LEED efforts in two main ways.

Light Filtration

Perforated metals functioning as exterior shades filter natural light into a building, keeping the interior cooler and reducing HVAC burden.

Choose an expert member of the Industrial Perforators Association to help you determine the right material, hole size and placement for your perforated metal shades.

— continued on back

Many More Sustainable Uses

Fully recyclable and often made of recycled materials, perforated metals offer a sustainable solution that extends far beyond the LEED applications discussed here.

- Walls
- Floors
- Ceilings
- Stairways
- Anywhere you want to cover, enclose, divide or decorate space.

Discover more at www.iperf.org

IPA Media Contact:

Elizabeth Franczyk
Account Coordinator
Scheibel Halaska
414-274-3013
efranczyk@insideSH.com

— continued from front

HVAC

Perforated metal panels help control air flow and reduce noise pollution from an HVAC system.

Large, lightweight perforated panels can also contribute LEED points by providing easy access for HVAC system maintenance and by protecting the system from mold and debris.

They can also serve as partitions which allow for the circulation of air and thus aid ventilation.

Innovation in Design

Don't overlook this LEED category—an opportunity to use your creativity to earn more points.

With perforated metals, the possibilities are wide open: the material can be as thin as foil or as thick as a 1½-inch steel plate, with holes punched in a wide array of shapes, patterns and sizes from microscopic up to 3 inches in diameter.

The ROI of LEED

Although reaching LEED certification can seem financially daunting, such measures will pay for themselves over time through lower electricity and gas bills. Many states even offer tax incentives to LEED certified buildings.

So start working toward LEED certification today by incorporating environmentally friendly perforated metals into your design. The members of the IPA are eager to help you add some punch and sustainability to your design.

IPA Media Contact:

Elizabeth Franczyk
Account Coordinator
Scheibel Halaska
414-274-3013
efranczyk@insideSH.com

About the Industrial Perforators Association

As the only North American organization devoted to the advancement of perforated materials, the Industrial Perforators Association continues to push the boundaries of what these materials can do. Through extensive research, knowledge sharing, standards setting and more, the IPA provides our members with the tools to drive innovation and increase utilization in perforation. In the process, we act as an essential resource to anyone who may benefit from incorporating perforated materials into their design. Discover more about the IPA and perforated materials at www.iperf.org.