



Overhangs....

#6

The best BANG

For your Buck!

By Mike

OK....ok...I'm talking about overhangs here....not being hung over. I just wanted to see if you are paying attention. Now that you are, let's get down to the subject at hand.

No single feature will change the look of your pole building more than overhangs. This is so profound; I need to say it again. *No single feature will change the look of your pole building more than adding overhangs.*

Plain Jane

For decades, the usual pole building has been a rectangular box, with the roof basically ending flush with the walls. While meeting the primary needs for functionality, this type of building remains rather "industrial" in appearance. So many times I have "built" (in a global sense of the word) really nice looking buildings. I would dare say they would have been absolutely gorgeous, except they lacked the one essential feature – overhangs.

Let it Rain

Besides just plain "looking good", overhangs serve a variety of functional purposes. Let's start with the basics – moving weather (rain, hail, snow) fall-off from the roof, away from the base of the building walls. This affords greater protection at door openings and helps to keep your building's walls cleaner by moving the "splash" away from the walls. In snow country, it keeps snow from building up directly against doors and next to the walls. I don't know about

you, but I know once I've shoveled away a snow drift, I'd just as soon I didn't have to shovel it again!

Open or Closed?

Open overhangs do not have an enclosure or "soffit" on the underside. If you stand directly beneath this style of overhang, you can look up and see the framing supporting the overhang. With the verge rafters and fascia boards covered by steel trims, they remain maintenance free, as no wood will be exposed to the weather.

Closed or "soffit" overhangs can come in different styles. Often the soffit material is either pre-painted aluminum or vinyl. The vinyl is available in a wider variety of color choices. It is also more durable and less expensive than aluminum. This style of soffit keeps insects and birds from nesting under the protection of the overhang.

Enclosed soffits which follow the angle of the roof are most common. However, "level return soffits", those that are level with the ground, are both striking in appearance and offer another advantage – ventilation.

In most cases, with the "level return", trusses with a span greater than the building width are used. When a ceiling is installed inside the building, air can flow freely through the vented soffit panels. Above the ceiling insulation, this air exits through ridge vents.

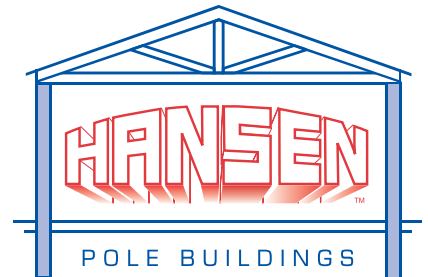
What Size?

The distance overhangs extend

should be determined from matching other existing structures on the site. Keep in mind you should size them to be proportionate with the scale of your building. An eight foot tall building with two foot overhangs can appear to always be in the shadows. And 12 inch overhangs can be almost invisible on a 16 foot eave.

Be careful when deciding whether to overhang all four sides, or not. Many buildings are constructed with only an overhang beyond the front endwall. This can tend to create an optical illusion of the building falling forward. Overhangs on just the sidewalls can look like the job was only half done. Overhangs also can vary in length, an example being two foot overhangs on the sides and one foot on the ends. Many times this is done to match an existing structure.

**Coming: Newsletter #7
Up on the Roof Top!**



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