



# Utah General Contractor Uses Metal Panels to Help Grow Project Business

**LUNDAHL BUILDING CLAIMS PROFITABLE NICHE AS COLD AND DRY STORAGE REGIONAL BUILDER**

## Present Situation

Jason Lundahl knows all about construction detail.

Lundahl is a construction manager with Lundahl Building, a 33-year-old family-owned and operated general contractor based in Logan, Utah. The 10-year company veteran directs activity on a wide range of construction projects from office, retail, academic, and government buildings to dry and cold storage facilities, a Lundahl Building specialty.

Lundahl says erecting a cold storage building is all about getting the details right.

"When you're running a building at -20° F, it's absolutely critical all of your joints, floor-to-wall and wall-to-ceiling are absolutely airtight," Lundahl says. "The slightest opening acts just like a vacuum."

Lundahl has seen the devastation and expense of a poorly-built cold storage facility. One owner thought he could retrofit a building for cold storage. Lundahl's team was called in to help repair the damage after severe frost heave (27 feet of frozen ground beneath the uninsulated floor) nearly destroyed the structure.

Evolving energy codes have also made compliance more challenging, especially on exterior wall systems. "They make it tough to reach the energy code on pre-engineered metal building and metal building insulation," Lundahl explains.

## Solution

"We really like insulated metal panels," Lundahl says.

Lundahl reports the firm has partnered with Metl-Span for about 20 years. "I've probably done 20 buildings with metal cladding in the 10 years I've been here," Lundahl estimates.

The team at Lundahl Building likes the ease of installation and the sales and support services they now expect on every Metl-Span order. "They're good to work with. They always step up whenever there's an issue, and every project has issues. We tried one of their competitors once. We had a bad experience on some quality issues. We've stuck with Metl-Span ever since. We always check their pricing. They're always competitive," Lundahl reports.

Energy performance, especially in cold environments, factors big as well. Metl-Span insulated metal panels meet cold storage building code with code-compliant class 1 polyurethane foam. Unlike panels with expanded polystyrene cores, Metl-Span insulated panels won't produce a self-propagating fire. The impermeable, encapsulated construction of exterior and interior metal panels ensure there's no gradual degradation of R-value performance over the life of the building, crucial to a cold storage environment. Owners also like the rapid installation speed, speeding building ROI and reducing labor costs.

"It's not a tough sell when advising an owner. Once they understand the energy and durability advantages of insulated metal panels over soft insulation, they're all in. Go into a building with soft insulation that has been around a few years. The insulation is torn-up, hanging-down. It doesn't hold-up well," Lundahl said.



## Results

"We just finished a mixed-use project a month ago for a large regional trucking company," Lundahl says. "We used horizontal metal panels for the exterior cladding. The owner absolutely loves the building. He's so excited. It looks awesome. I think the building is the first one in the valley with horizontal panels."

"Once you get these projects done and turn them over to the happy owner, it leaves you with a good feeling. We have actually bought more Metl-Span panels than anyone else in Utah for many years now. We like working with them." ■

## To Learn More

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