



# Benefits of Steel Construction Boost Business for Prineville Contractor

Pat Baxter of Lite Foot Construction, Inc. credits his wide range of construction experience for his ability to provide well rounded service to his customers. Pat worked in the heating and cooling industry for five years and also traveled the western states with a construction company putting up Wal-marts. After years of working for others, Pat decided it was time be his own boss. He started out building pole barns and doing small remodels. Then last year he found Web Steel Buildings in a local publication while doing some research for a client who wanted a steel building. Since contacting Web Steel and working with project manager Tim Marshall, Pat has done four building projects and has several more on the books.

there making it simple to insulate and install sheetrock," said Pat.

Its second nature for Pat to take pride in the work he does for his clients. "When I build something, the way I look at it is, I won't build something I wouldn't be proud to have at my own home." Pat is for the



as a "new kid on the block."

Lite Foot Construction, Inc. is located in Prineville and their service area covers Crook, Jefferson, Deschutes counties



*"Pat Baxter did an excellent job putting up our building. Besides his superior carpentry skills, he conducts himself in a very professional manner. We would highly recommend Pat to anyone who needs work done." - David and Marie Lynn*

"From a contractor's standpoint," Pat says, "a big benefit of working with steel framed building's, is I can get in and get out quickly, these buildings go up fast." "Another nice thing is not drilling post holes into solid bedrock!" He also points out that "the monolithic concrete slab provides a nice, clean work surface." The ease of interior finishing is another benefit of the Web Steel Building systems, "If clients want to finish the inside of the buildings, the wall framing is already

most part a one man show but subs out work to other contractors depending on the size of the project. Since relocating to Prineville late last year to be closer to family and for his wife's job, Pat has found Central Oregon to be a great place to have a business. "People have been very supportive and helpful to me

and as far North as Wheeler and Grant counties. Pat can be reached at 503-881-9665 or via email at [litefootconstruction@yahoo.com](mailto:litefootconstruction@yahoo.com).



*"From start to finish, Pat did a great job. He showed up on time, kept a clean job site and paid close attention to detail. I'm very happy with my Web Steel Building and would recommend Pat 's services to anyone."*

*- Mike Gillette*

# Concrete: Getting It Done Right The First Time

Next to purchasing the right building for your project, choosing the right concrete contractor is the most important step. Whether your concrete plan calls for a slab, piers, or stem wall, your concrete must be done correctly with the anchor bolts in the right place or your building will not go together as planned.

So, how do you go about finding a concrete contractor? Referrals are always best! Start by asking friends, family and co-workers if they know of anyone. Call local concrete companies. They often know who to refer and they'll most likely refer only those finishers whose accounts are in good standing with their company. And finally, hit the phone book and local papers for ads. Once you have your list, call your state's contractor board or look it up on the internet. Find out if the contractors on your list are registered with the contractors board.

Try to get at least three names to call. Make an appointment with each to come to your site and give you an estimate. Take note of how professional the contractor appears and how he cares for his truck and tools. This is often a good indication of how good a job he'll do for you. In order for the contractor to give you an accurate bid on your job, they will need to know the following information:

- Will you need excavation? Often the contractor can arrange for that and include it in the bid.
- What is the soil bearing pressure?

- What is your frost line level?
- When do you need the job completed?
- A copy of the concrete plan (included in your building plans).

Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a square foot price for concrete. There are many variables in concrete such as location of site, site access (will concrete need to be pumped in), size of project, etc. Beware of contractors offering a square foot price over the phone without visiting your site or looking at your plans. An accurate bid requires a site visit. Ask the contractor for referrals and ask to see a job in progress if possible.



What constitutes good concrete work? Like most building materials, concrete expands and contracts with heat and cold. Certain steps are taken to minimize the effects of heat and cold on the slab, in particular the use of "control joints." Check finished concrete jobs for

excessive trowel marks. How detailed is the bid he gave you? Know what you are paying for.

*"Don't automatically accept the lowest bid. As the saying goes, you often get what you pay for."*

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Once you choose your concrete contractor be clear and realistic about construction time

lines. In a perfect world your concrete would be poured at the time you put your building into fabrication. With an average of 4-6 weeks for fabrication, this would give plenty of time for the concrete to cure before construction of the building begins. If this time frame isn't possible, make sure that your concrete has no less than 5-7 days to cure.

As your project goes along make sure you keep your contractor updated on any changes to the building that would affect the concrete plan. If your contractor has any questions regarding the bolt placement ask him to call us. We are here to help you and ensure that your project is done correctly.



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