

American Vs. Chinese Steel: The Right Choice for Your Money, Protection and Peace of Mind

One thing politicians love to brag about is 100%, American-made Steel. However, with so many companies outsourcing to China, it's hard to know where it's coming from, and the potential risks of sourcing steel not made in the heartland can be severe.

Chinese steel companies have long prioritized maximizing value over ensuring safety. On the other hand, American steel is three times stronger - and is made without ever sacrificing the safety of our workers.

Manufacturing The Best

The U.S. first became a major steel manufacturer during the Civil War. Since then, the American Standard for Testing and Materials, or ASTM, has set a strict set of standards for manufacturers to follow. Environmental concerns have been heard, and U.S. steel does its share to be as environmentally-friendly as possible.

Those standards don't apply to Chinese or other foreign steel. Besides adding boron to their product, weakening the welds, the sheer number of pollutants that Chinese steel emits is alarming. Other countries have taken notice, with the U.K. cautioning that using Chinese steel could potentially put lives at risk.

High-Quality, High Reward

We've already mentioned American steel being remarkably stronger – up to three times stronger and eight times thicker - while its environmental benefits can't be overstated. TreeHugger has even praised U.S. Steel's commitment to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. Additionally, American steel has lower oxidation levels, reducing the amount of rust produced.

You don't have to look far to find examples of Chinese steel's poor quality. Between 2011 and 2012 alone, eight bridges in the country collapsed, not to mention a school structure failing to withstand a 2008 earthquake and killing 700 children. Cheaper doesn't mean better, and Chinese steel has been rife with hazardous design flaws.

The Highest Standards In The Business

The fact that the ASTM was founded by experts at the American Iron and Steel Institute is a statement in and of itself. It shows a self-regulating commitment to the industry's highest standards, ensuring their product undergoes rigorous stress-testing and keeping a thorough checklist of strict environmental standards.

Chinese steel has no such regulating body, operating mainly to sell at the highest profit possible. The addition of boron, as previously mentioned, helps increase their margins - but it ultimately weakens the product, leading to cracks. It's an excellent deal for the companies, but is it worth putting lives at risk?

Stronger Steel For Stronger Protection

In addition to just being safer for structures, American steel has the added benefit of being difficult to break. The increased strength of American steel leads to increased durability, allowing the steel to handle greater pressure and weight. This increases the ability to bear loads, overall construction capacity, and higher compression rates.

As mentioned, Chinese steel has been directly associated with faulty construction and related fallout. The addition of boron and other metals reduces the structural integrity of the steel and reduces its durability. The facts are plain and simple, Chinese steel places lives at risk - all in the name of profit.

Better for the Environment, Better for America

We've only touched on the commitment to keeping the American carbon footprint as light as possible, with 66% of American Steel being recycled. A 2018 peer-reviewed report on hot-dip galvanized steel coils produced in the U.S. revealed that our steel has half the greenhouse gas emissions as Chinese steel.

Besides, Chinese steel produces double the carbon footprint of American-made steel. In 2018, an AISC white paper announced that Chinese steel is three times more environmentally harmful. While hundreds of Chinese steel mills have been closed for failing to comply with stricter rules, industrial debris is still at a near-crisis level.*

The Best Strength at the Best Price

We've talked a little about the strength of American steel. With eight times the thickness, it comes highly recommended for safes and vaults. Safe companies have also flaunted their product's tamper-resistant qualities, and the low oxidation rates prevent it from rusting at an accelerated rate.

Chinese steel is weaker, but recent political battles have also made it more expensive. You've no doubt seen President Donald Trump railing about it on the news, and he imposed a 25% tax

on imports in March 2018. This put American steel primed to make a comeback after some years of uncertainty, and its cost is much closer to the global average today.

Finding the Truth: Know Where Your Steel Is Coming From

You may think you're buying American steel when dealing with American companies, but that might well not be the case. Many companies have taken to using steel brokers, whose only job is to ensure the lowest price for their client. With Chinese firms partnering in the background with numerous companies, this may mean you're not getting the best product for your money.

Thankfully, it's not hard to suss these people out. Simply ask the person on the other end of the phone, "Are you a broker?" "Where's your steel from?" Just a few questions. They often refer to themselves as "contract manufacturers," and you deserve to know the truth.

Remember, when sourcing steel be sure to keep the following in mind;

- Research
- Ask questions
- Utilize a broker

Get The Right Answer Now

When you call [Brand Name], you're never going to get a coded answer for a broker. We pride ourselves in manufacturing 100% American-made steel, with all the environmental, safety, and protection features of that label.

With so many companies scrambling to bring you products that aren't necessarily the best but the cheapest, our customizable buildings are a welcome return to American values. We guarantee free delivery and installation, and our customer-satisfaction can't be beaten, so visit us today! To learn more, please visit us at [Brand Name website].

This article could not have been possible without the firm, thorough research compiled by [Gensteel](#), [BDO](#), [CDMG](#), [Armstrong Steel](#), [CreedLA](#), [Aerospace Manufacturing](#), [Champion Safe](#) and the journalists of [Reuters](#).

*Not in original research provided. Found here:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-steel-slag/with-steel-waste-in-crosshairs-china-extends-its-war-on-pollution-idUSKBN1O90KW>