Prescriptive Design for Pole Barns
Using the Larimer County Prescriptive Handout

Pole Barns
For Non-High Wind and High Wind Areas

The Larimer County prescriptive design for pole barns is a basic plan only, not intended or allowed to be altered for other than a very basic barn. No changes of use, such as residential or commercial uses, are allowed without review by a Colorado registered engineer and County approval.

The pole barns must be constructed exactly as the handout indicates.

### Pole Barns – Non-High Wind

**Construction**
- Solid wooden columns
- Engineered wood trusses that run column to column at *eight foot on center*
- Limited to 3,000 square feet and 35 feet in “truss direction” width. No side wings or lean to’s are allowed under the basic handout design

**Modifications**
For Pole Barns that:
- Exceed the area in the handout
- Have columns other than solid treated wooden columns
- Use stick built rafter framing
- Have hay lofts
- Have other design features such as wings or lean to’s

The owner/applicant must have plans designed to Larimer County’s wind and snow loads. All framing elements are to be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice, or provide plans designed and stamped by a Colorado registered engineer or Colorado licensed architect.

1 The exceptions are approved engineered fabricated 3-2x6’s laminated columns such as ‘Gruen-Wald’ or 3-2x6’ treated Southern Yellow Pine #1 full length (no splices) glued or nailed per ANSI standards.

### Pole Barns – High Wind

**Construction**
- Solid wooden columns
- Engineered wood trusses that run column to column at *six foot on center* depending on which handout is used
- Limited to 3,000 square feet and 35 feet in “truss direction” width. No side wings or lean to’s are allowed under the basic handout design

**Modifications**
For Pole Barns that:
- Exceed the area in the handout
- Have columns other than solid treated wooden columns
- Use stick built rafter framing
- Have hay lofts
- Have other design features such as wings or lean to’s

The owner/applicant must have plans designed to Larimer County’s wind and snow loads. All framing elements are to be designed in accordance with the accepted engineering practice, or provide plans designed and stamped by a Colorado registered engineer or Colorado licensed architect.

1 The exceptions are approved engineered fabricated 3-2x6’s laminated columns such as ‘Gruen-Wald’ or 3-2x6’ treated Southern Yellow Pine #1 full length (no splices) glued or nailed per ANSI standards.

Updated to 2012 ICodes 08/13/14
POLE STRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

When applying for a building permit two (2) complete sets of plans and four (4) site plans must be submitted.

1. Plot Plan of total parcel drawn to scale must have the following:
   A. Show all dimensions of all property lines
   B. Identify scale used. Minimum scale is 1 inch = 20 feet or 1/16 inch = 1 foot
   C. Direction north identified
   D. Easements for utilities
   E. Name of all adjacent roads and show driveway locations
   F. Section, Township, and Range (determined by your parcel number)
   G. Subdivision name, lot and block number, and filing number (if applicable)
   H. Owner’s name
   I. All existing structures labeled as to their use
   J. Proposed structure
   K. Distance from the proposed structure to ALL property lines and to the centerline of all adjacent roads. If an existing structure saddles the property line it must be shown on the plot plan.
   L. Location and distance from any stream, lake, or body of water within 100 feet of the structure.

2. Floor Plan
   A. Plan view of pole location and spacing
   B. Framing plan should show direction, size, and spacing of roof system, purlins, girts, beams, and header sizes.
   C. Show sizes and locations of the overhead door, man door, and windows
   D. Maximum width is 35 feet.

3. Exterior Elevation
   A. Front view – scale must be 1/4 inch = 1 foot
   B. Rear and both side views – scale at 1/8 inch = 1 foot
   C. Finished grade line at building
   D. Exterior wall finish material

4. Inspections Required
   A. Setback and Hole Inspections: should be inspected after holes are dug but before concrete punch pads are poured
   B. Framing Inspection: should be inspected after building is up and before insulation or interior covering is installed. A final inspection could be done at this time if no further work is being done.
   C. Final Inspection: should be after all work is completed such as insulation, concrete slab, electrical, plumbing, heating, and/or sheetrock.

   **Plans and cards need to be on-site at time of all inspections**
POLE STRUCTURE CROSS SECTION

2x4 Purlins @ 24” o.c.

2x6 Girts at 24” o.c.

2 ½” Carriage Bolts

6x6 or larger treated post 8’ o.c. for 14’ height
3- 2x6 Laminated or better
(Laminated posts with splices or joints must be engineered)

Treated post

16” min. diameter x 6” min. thickness concrete or sakrete pad

Proper surface drainage required

Treated splash board

Compacted earth

4 ft. depth

Treated held down cleats nailed
HIGH WIND
POLE STRUCTURE
CROSS SECTION

Pre-engineered roof trusses
6 o.c.

2x4 Purlins @ 24" o.c.
HF or SPF #2

10' MAX Height 6x6 or larger treated post 6' o.c. or 3-2x6 (full length) treated SYP #2 glued or nailed
(Laminated posts with splices or joints must be engineered)

2x6 Girts at 24" o.c.
HF or SPF #2

2 5/8" Carriage Bolts

Engineered Truss

2x6 Girts at 24" o.c.
HF or SPF #2

29 Gauge or better roof and siding steel

Truss notched into post see detail

Bracing requirements per truss engineer

Proper surface drainage required

Treated splash board

Compacted earth

16" min. diameter x 6" min. thickness concrete or sakrete pad

Treated hold down cleats nailed
GABLE END DETAIL

Figure 1.1. Simplified diagram of a post-frame building. Some components such as permanent roof truss bracing and interior finishes are not shown.
*SEE CROSS SECTION FOR MORE DETAIL

DRAWINGS TO BE TO SCALE WITH ALL DIMENSIONS INDICATED.

SCALE 1/4" = 1' PREFERRED

*NO CHANGES OF USE SUCH AS RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL USES ARE ALLOWED WITHOUT REVIEW BY A COLORADO REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEER AND COUNTY APPROVAL