


WHAT ARE THE BEST FOOTING OPTIONS FOR MODULAR ACCOMMODATION UNITS?

Learn about the best footing options for modular worker accommodation, including steel piers and dry stack footings. Find out which foundation suits your land.

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When you're setting up modular accommodation for workers, the foundation is one of the most important decisions you'll make. It's about keeping your units safe, steady, and lasting through the years. There are a lot of footing types out there, but for modular worker accommodation, two stand out: **steel piers** and **dry stack footings**. Both of these methods are solid, dependable options, but it's always worth knowing what you're dealing with and making the best call for your setup.

It's also worth noting: while these are the two most common foundation types, they're not the only ones. Depending on your site, your preferences, and where you live, you might come across other options, so it's important to work with your supplier to make sure you've got the right fit.

Steel Pier Foundations

Steel piers are a go-to for a reason. These strong metal posts are driven deep into the ground to give your modular units a solid base.

Why Choose Steel Piers:

- **Built to Last:** Steel piers can handle tough weather and heavy loads, so once they're in, they'll stay put for the long haul.
- **Straightforward to Install:** Compared to some other footing methods, steel piers are generally quick and easy to set up. That means less waiting around and more time getting the job done.
- **Works on Tough Ground:** Got a slope or uneven terrain? No worries. Steel piers are adjustable, so you can keep everything level, no matter what the ground's doing.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- **Maintenance:** While steel is tough, it's always good practice to check your piers regularly, especially if they're installed in areas with corrosive soils. A bit of regular maintenance goes a long way.

Dry Stack Footings

The dry stack method has been around for ages, and there's a reason for that. It's simple, cost-effective, and it works. It involves stacking rocks or concrete blocks without mortar to create a solid foundation.

Why Choose Dry Stack Footings:

- **Affordable:** If you're looking to save on setup costs, dry stack footings are a great option. There's no need for expensive mortar or heavy machinery.
- **Quick:** The very concept of dry stack is that it doesn't require a lot of setup and on the other side it doesn't require any waiting time after they've been built, and even though steel piers can be quick, this method is generally even quicker. This could mean ordering a **stock unit** and getting it installed very quickly.
- **Easy to Install:** Dry stack footings don't require a highly skilled team, so they're ideal for rural areas where labour might be limited.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- **Stability:** Dry stack footings need to be installed properly to stay solid over time. Adding gravel or small stones to reinforce the base can help.
- **Not for Extreme Conditions:** If you're in a region with heavy rains, earthquakes, or shifting soils, dry stack footings might need extra attention. They're great in the right setting but may need reinforcement in more challenging conditions.



Choosing the Right Footing for Your Project

Now, deciding between steel piers and dry stack footings depends on a few key factors. While these are the most common options, they aren't the only ones. And whatever method you choose, it's always best to chat with your supplier—they'll usually have done the **engineering work** already and can give you exactly what you need.

- **Soil Conditions:** If your ground is soft or prone to shifting, steel piers might be the safer bet. But if the soil's firm, dry stack footings could be the cost-effective option you're after.
- **Budget:** Steel piers might be a bit more expensive upfront, but they'll save you maintenance headaches in the long run. Dry stack footings are more budget-friendly, especially for projects with tighter margins.
- **Terrain:** If you're building on a slope or uneven land, steel piers will help keep everything level. But if the ground is flat and solid, dry stack footings will do the job just fine.


Conclusion

Steel piers and dry stack footings are two of the best footing options for modular worker accommodation, but they're not the only ones. The key is making sure you're picking the right one for your land and your budget.

And while this blog gives you a good overview, there's plenty of detail that hasn't been covered here—things like pier depth, concrete strength, and how deep your holes should be. Those specifics should always be discussed with your supplier, who'll have the technical details sorted for your accommodation units. And it's a good idea to get an engineer involved to make sure everything's up to scratch.

In the end, the foundation you choose will ensure your worker accommodation stands the test of time. Get it right, and you'll have solid, reliable housing for years to come.



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