



# Your Guide to Mezzanine Platforms: Maximize Space Without Expanding Your Building

Mezzanine platforms create valuable new space in your warehouse without the cost and complexity of expanding your building's footprint. They offer a cost-effective alternative to new construction.

If you're considering a mezzanine for your facility, here's what you need to know to get started:

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## 1. Define Your Mezzanine's Purpose

How will you use your mezzanine space? Options include:

- **Storage**
- **Kitting or assembly areas**
- **In-plant offices**
- **Multi-use applications**

Consider how the mezzanine will integrate with your current operations and processes, its location within your facility, and your ceiling height. It's also essential to think ahead—how will the mezzanine accommodate future growth? These decisions will determine the most suitable decking and framing options for your project.

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## 2. Assess Your Facility's Floor

The strength and condition of your facility's floor are critical to a safe mezzanine installation. A concrete slab analysis measures its strength in **PSI (pounds per square inch)** and determines if additional preparations, such as special footings, are needed. The slab's load capacity in **PSF (pounds per square foot)** helps finalize the design and ensures the mezzanine is secure and compliant.

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## 3. Meet Codes and Safety Standards

Mezzanines must comply with **local, state, and national building codes** as well as **OSHA safety requirements**. A safe and compliant mezzanine system includes:

- Properly designed stairs, landings, gates, and railings
- Adequate airflow to meet HVAC requirements
- Maximized usable space both above and below the mezzanine

Safety and compliance are integral to mezzanine design. Additionally, the existing **HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning)** systems may not require expansion, as they are often designed to

accommodate the facility's original space. A W.W. Cannon specialist will take all of these safety and compliance items into consideration when designing your mezzanine.

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## 4. Choose the Right Structural System

Several factors influence mezzanine design, including:

- Column placement and spacing to work around existing equipment and processes
- Frame and slab capacity to support operational needs

W.W. Cannon partners with top suppliers to provide heavy-duty industrial mezzanines featuring robust **5" x 5" x 3/16" columns** and **12" x 12" x 3/4" baseplates** for strong, stable support.

**Flooring options** include moisture-resistant resin boards, bar grating, concrete, corrugated decking, and more. Your upper-level usage will determine the best choice for safety and functionality.

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## 5. Enhance Safety with Integrated Options

Safety and efficiency go hand in hand. Mezzanine platforms come with a variety of options and accessories, including:

- Mezzanine guard railings and stairways compliant with **ANSI MH28.3:2009**, OSHA, and IBC guidelines
- Modular railing systems designed for easy installation and aesthetic appeal
- Additional features like decking, lighting, fire protection, lifts, and safety gates

Each element is designed to meet the specific needs of your operations while ensuring safety and compliance.

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## 6. Consider a PE Stamp

A **PE (Professional Engineer) stamp** ensures your mezzanine is designed for maximum safety and structural integrity. This includes approval for layout, column placement, connections, stairs, gates, and more. PE-stamped drawings are often required for permit approval.

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## 7. Secure Permits Before Installation

Permitting requirements vary by location. Having PE-stamped drawings simplifies the process, making it easier for you, your architect, or your contractor to secure the necessary approvals.

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## 8. Plan for a Quick Installation

Mezzanine systems are modular and designed for fast, cost-effective assembly. Most installations are completed in weeks, not months. Our supplier's modular designs can even be dismantled and relocated to support future growth (note: concrete decking is not relocatable).

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### Why Choose W.W. Cannon for Your Mezzanine?

Partnering with the right company is key to a successful mezzanine project. At W.W. Cannon, we bring decades of experience navigating permitting, safety regulations, and design standards.

Our expertise, combined with our preferred suppliers' engineering capabilities, ensures your mezzanine will meet stringent safety codes while delivering the functionality and value you need.

We handle:

- Design and planning
- Project management
- Installation

Let W.W. Cannon specialists review your needs and recommend the best mezzanine solution for your operations today—and into the future.

