

ANOTHER MITEK ADVANTAGE

PREFABRICATED GARAGE BEAMS

For many years now, a number of truss plants have been supplying their own prefabricated garage beams as an alternative to solid timber and steel beams.

The most popular types of prefabricated garage beams are: the Metal Web Lintel, Timber Trussed Lintel, Vierendeel ConstructaBeam Lintel and, more recently, the MiTek Lintel.

Although each form of lintel has different features, they all share the same advantage of weight and cost competitiveness against solid timber and steel beams when it comes to typical 4.8m double garage openings supporting jacks or hip end rafters.

Truss fabricators benefit by having their beam supply within their control and available on call. They can manufacture them job by job or for stock.

With the exception of ConstructaBeam, they all use common 70x35mm and 90x35mm timber, so material stock holding is rationalised and kept to a minimum.

On the other hand, for builders, these lintels can be ordered ex-stock, are not subject to third party delivery delays and being much lighter than solid timber and steel beams, facilitate easier and safer construction on site and reduce the risk of OH&S problems.

The following is a summary of the features of the different beam types:

MiTek Lintel

In this latest addition to the GN Lintel range of products, the MiTek Lintel is constructed using timber chords and nogs that are stagger plated with special full depth nailplates.

The lintel depth is shallower than the metal web or trussed versions, and is variable to fit into the header without any need for trimming or blocking. It is fairly robust and not prone to damage in handling.

Metal Web Lintel

This lintel uses timber chords and proprietary metal webs, such as PosiStrut in between. It is also the lightest lintel in the range, making it

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the easiest for lifting and handling on site.

But by being light, it is also more susceptible to damage if not handled with normal care. The depth is modular and not easily varied.

Timber Trussed Lintel

This lintel is popular because it uses regular timber chords and webs and standard stock nailplates for manufacture. Like the MiTek Lintel, it has an infinite depth range for exact fit.

The diagonal webs can be square cut at the ends, or angle cut for smaller plate sizes. It is fairly robust for handling.

Vierendeel ConstructaBeam

This is the strongest but also the heaviest lintel in the range. Although it uses slightly larger timber sizes, it is the shallowest beam of the lot and extremely robust.

Significantly, it has the ability to be designed for much higher loads and spans.

For more information on prefabricated garage lintels, please contact your local fabricator or nailplate supplier. For related reading, see also Gang-Nail Guidelines No 17.



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