Carport Design Guidelines
SunModo Carports

The SunPort™ is a lightweight, cost effective aluminum frame, aesthetically pleasing carport structure. Maintenance costs are minimized and there is no worry of rust breaking through the protective finish which is common with galvanized steel carport structures. All components are made of aluminum and the hardware is stainless steel guaranteeing long serviceability.

Getting started, first you will need to select between the SP2000 and the SP4000 carport options. When viewed in profile the SP2000 has two vertical columns used to support the solar panels. The SP4000 when viewed has four angled columns resembling the letter “W.” Structurally the SP2000 and SP4000 will perform similarly. Next is selecting the solar panel mounting orientation. In portrait the carports can support up to three panels. In landscape the carports can support up to seven panels making the landscape orientation the better value.
Example 1, let’s review some of the dimensions of a small single-stall carport. A 6LX2-5DEG-SP2000 is defined as “six rows by two columns of solar panels in landscape with a 5-degree tilt angle using the SunPort 2000 product platform.” This particular 6LX2-5DEG-SP2000 has a 108-inch (9-feet) east-west span and a 36-inch (3-feet) cantilever on either side. As a rule of thumb the cantilever distance is 1/3 the distance of the east-west span. 84-inches (7-feet) is the typical clearance height of the carport. Clearance is measured from the ground to the lowest point of the carport which is usually the leading edges of the north-south beams. The tilt angle of the carports are typically limited to 5 or 10-degrees, with 5-degrees being the most common.
Example 2, let’s review some of the dimensions of a larger multi-stall carport. A 7LX61-5DEG-SP4000 is defined as “seven rows by sixty one columns of solar panels in landscape with a 5-degree tilt angle using the SunPort 4000 product platform.” This particular 7LX61-5DEG-SP4000 has a 240-inch (20-feet) east-west spans and 80-inch cantilever on either side. Depending on environmental conditions, wind speeds and snow loads, the east-west spans may be reduced down to 216-inches (18-feet).
Example 3, we have a medium sized multi-stall carport defined as a 3PX15-5DEG-SP2000. In this carport design the customer has chosen to install three rows of solar panels in the portrait orientation. The same typical design constraint would apply to this carport as in the first two examples: 216-inches (18-feet) to 240-inch (20-feet) east-west spans. The cantilever distance is 1/3 the distance of the east-west span. 84-inches (7-feet) is the typical clearance height and the tilt angle is 5-degrees.
SunModo Carports

SunModo’s carports are designed with reinforced concrete foundations with anchor bolts designed to attach the aluminum columns. These foundations are below grade which helps to minimum obstructions causing door dings. A typical foundation detail requires #5 rebar (5/8 diameter) and 5/8 X 36-inch anchor bolts.
SunModo Carports

Visit the SunModo website for additional carport related information.
https://knowledgebase.sunmodo.com/
