



Dock Seals vs. Dock Shelters: Which is Right for Your Facility?



When it comes to optimizing your loading dock's efficiency, safety, and energy savings, proper weather sealing is essential. **Dock seals** and **dock shelters** are two of the most effective solutions for sealing the gap between the loading dock and the trailer. But how do you know *which one is the best fit* for your facility?

At **CMH Industrial Systems**, we offer premium dock sealing solutions, including dock seals and dock shelters. Whether you need a standard dock seal, a high-durability dock shelter, or a custom solution, we have you covered.

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What Are Dock Seals?

Dock seals are ***foam-filled compression pads*** that create a tight seal against the trailer when it backs into the dock opening. They are ideal for facilities handling consistent trailer sizes and needing a highly effective thermal barrier.

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Solutions: Classic Dock Seal & Performer Dock Seal

We offer **top-quality dock seals**, including:

- **Classic Dock Seal** – The industry standard, designed for facilities that need an effective seal for standard trailer sizes. It provides excellent protection against air infiltration, dust, and moisture.

- ✓ Tight Compression Seal
- ✓ Weather & Pest Protection
- ✓ Durable Construction
- ✓ Cost-Effective Solution



- **Performer Dock Seal** – A high-performance dock seal built for higher durability and longevity, featuring reinforced materials to withstand frequent use and compression wear.
- ✓ Pleat-Free, Ultra-Durable Side Pad Face
- ✓ Full-Height Inside Side Pad Reinforcing
- ✓ Triple-Reinforced Corner Wear Boots
- ✓ Replaceable Wear Components
- ✓ Internal Firefighter® Technology
- ✓ Light-Blocking Header Face



Key Benefits of Dock Seals

Energy Efficiency – Provides an airtight seal, reducing heating and cooling costs.

Pest & Weather Protection – Blocks out rain, wind, snow, dust, and rodents.

Cost-Effective – Lower initial cost compared to dock shelters.

Ideal for Standardized Trailers – Works best when handling trucks of similar size.

Best Applications for Dock Seals

- Facilities handling uniform trailer sizes.
- Warehouses prioritizing *thermal efficiency*.
- Indoor storage requiring dust, dirt, and pest protection.



Potential Drawbacks

- Limited Flexibility – If your facility receives different-sized trailers, dock seals may not always create a perfect fit.
- Compression Wear – Repeated trailer impact may cause wear over time.

What Are Dock Shelters?

Dock shelters consist of a ***flexible frame*** with durable fabric curtains that wrap around the trailer's perimeter. Unlike dock seals, they provide full access to the trailer interior, making them ideal for operations with varied trailer sizes.

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Solutions: Types of Dock

Shelters

We offer a range of **dock shelters** designed for different applications:



✓ **Rigid Dock Shelters** – A stationary frame with flexible side and top curtains, providing a **tight seal** around the trailer while allowing unrestricted access.

Pictured first.



✓ **Retractable Dock Shelters** – Feature a *collapsible frame* that retracts when not in use, reducing damage from trailer impact. Pictured second.



✓ **Inflatable Dock Shelters** – Use air-inflated side and top seals to create a custom-fit barrier against trailers of varying sizes. Ideal for maximum energy efficiency. Pictured third.



✓ **Hybrid Dock Shelters** – A combination of foam compression dock seals and flexible dock shelter curtains, offering both tight sealing and trailer access. Pictured fourth.

Key Benefits of Dock Shelters

Versatile Fit – Accommodates a wide range of trailer sizes and designs.

Full Access to Trailer Interior – Allows forklifts to move freely in and out of the trailer.

Durable & Long-Lasting – Built to withstand frequent trailer movement with minimal wear.

Weather & Environmental Protection – Shields against wind, rain, and extreme temperatures.

Best Applications for Dock Shelters

- Facilities handling multiple trailer sizes.
- High-volume shipping/receiving areas needing full trailer access.
- Businesses requiring long-term durability and less wear and tear.

Potential Drawbacks

- Higher Initial Cost – More expensive than dock seals but offers greater flexibility and longevity.
- Less Air-Tight Seal – While effective, dock shelters may allow minor air gaps, leading to slightly reduced energy efficiency compared to dock seals



Dock Seals vs. Dock Shelters: Quick Comparison

Feature	Dock Seals	Dock Shelters
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Best for...	Standard-sized trailers	Varying trailer sizes
Energy Efficiency	High	Moderate
Trailer Access	Partial	Full
Durability	Can wear over time	More durable
Weather Protection	Excellent	Excellent
Cost	Lower upfront cost	Higher upfront cost

Which Should You Choose for Your Facility?

Choose **Dock Seals** If:

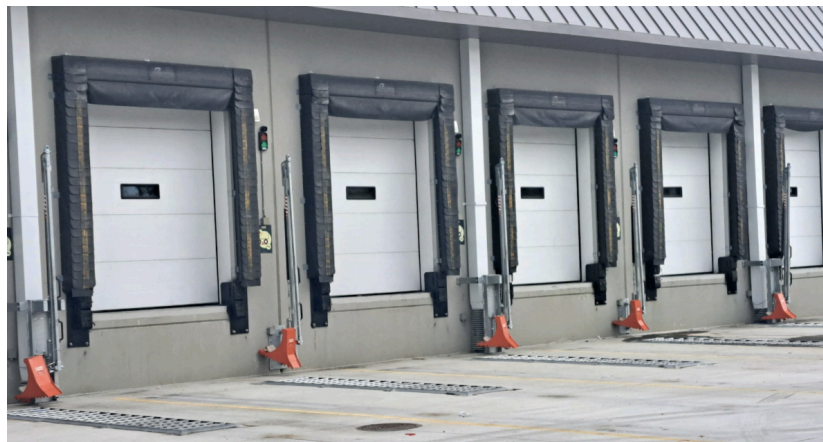
- Your facility primarily handles uniform trailer sizes.
- You want maximum energy efficiency and a tight seal.
- You're looking for a cost-effective solution to reduce heating/cooling loss.

Choose **Dock Shelters** If:

- Your facility receives trailers of varying sizes.
- You need full trailer access for efficient loading/unloading.
- You want a long-lasting, durable solution with reduced wear and tear.

Combination Solutions: Get the Best of Both Worlds


If your facility requires both energy efficiency and flexibility, consider **hybrid solutions** that combine dock seals and dock shelters. **CMH Industrial Systems** offers custom dock sealing solutions tailored to your needs, ensuring maximum protection and efficiency.



Get Expert Advice & a Free Consultation

Still unsure which solution is right for your facility? Contact CMH Industrial Systems today! Our dock experts will help you find the best dock seals, dock shelters, or hybrid solutions to improve your facility's efficiency, safety, and cost savings.

 Call us at: **(804)400-0320**

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