



The Nation

World Trade Center Vital Statistics

By Various Sources

CNSNews.com Information Services

September 11, 2001

Location: New York, New York, USA

Completion Date: 1972 (Tower One),
1973 (Tower Two)

Cost: \$400 million

Height: 1,368 feet (Tower One), 1,362
feet (Tower Two)

Stories: 110

Materials: Steel

Facing Materials: Aluminum, steel

Engineer(s): Skilling, Helle, Christiansen & Robertson



Constructed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in the early 1970s, the World Trade Center towers were, for their time, the best known examples of tube buildings. Tube buildings are strengthened by closely spaced columns and beams in the outer walls. The closely spaced columns and beams in each tower form a steel tube that, together with an internal core, withstand the tremendous wind loads that affect buildings this tall.

Aside from withstanding enormous wind loads, the World Trade Center towers were also constructed to withstand settlement loads. Because the towers were built on six acres of landfill, the foundation of each tower had to extend more than 70 feet below ground level to rest on solid bedrock.

One World Trade Center features Windows on the World, an elegant restaurant with a magnificent view of New York City. Two World Trade Center features two observation decks, both more than 1,300 feet above the city.

At the time of their completion in 1973, the World Trade Center towers were the two tallest buildings in the world. Two years later, the Sears Tower in Chicago seized the coveted title, but the World Trade Center towers still dominate the Manhattan skyline and provide an impressive gateway to New York City.

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Fast Facts:

- * Each tower has 104 passenger elevators, 21,800 windows, and roughly an acre of rentable space on each floor.
- * From the observation deck on Two World Trade Center it is possible to see 45 miles in every direction.
- * Each tower sways approximately three feet from true center in strong wind storms.
- * If all the glass used in the construction of both towers was melted into a ribbon of glass, 20 inches wide, it would run 65 miles long.
- * The twin towers have often been called "Lego-blocks" by critics.
- * On Friday, February 26, 1993, at 12:18 p.m., a bomb exploded in the underground garage of One World Trade Center, creating a 22-foot-wide, five-story-deep crater. Six people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. The towers were cleaned, repaired, and reopened in less than one month.

(Source: Public Broadcasting Service)



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