1. **Who makes V-Mac Silos?**

V-Mac Silos are manufactured in Ireland by McAree Engineering – they have been making silos since 1967 and are one of the largest manufacturers of silos in Ireland and the UK.

They are also one of the largest sheet metal fabrication businesses in Ireland as well.

1. **Why do I need a silo?**

There are 3 main reasons for getting a silo

1. **To save Money.** Buying in bulk can save up to £30/€40 per ton over bagged feed, also the bigger the quantity you buy the greater the saving. Eg a 12 ton load of feed may cost less than 4 ton on an average cost per ton basis. In addition with a silo there is no waste (there is no spoilage, no feed being ate by vermin and no damaged feed caused by multiple handling) Research indicates that up to 10% of feed can be wasted if it is stored in an open environment.
2. **Bio security** – there is a growing awareness of the need to protect animal feed from contaminants (waste from birds and vermin and other environmental factors) to ensure that quality the feed going into the food chain is 100%. Storing animal feed in purpose built silos provides this bio security
3. **Health & Safety** – Silos are easy to fill and empty providing a good working environment for the animal feed suppliers staff who don’t have to climb into lofts etc and also for the farmer who don’t have to manually fill tons of feed out of bags etc – which is back breaking work.
4. **What size silo do I need?**

Typically you will order feed on a weekly, fortnightly or Monthly basis. Check with your feed mill to see what the pricing options are – you might get a better deal for ordering 6 ton instead of 4 ton.

Remember you usually will have a bit left in the silo - so if you are ordering 6 ton of feed you probably need an 8 ton capacity silo.

Rations/Blends are bulkier than ordinary pellets – all our silos are sized in cubic feet. Check the charts and the density of your feed to make sure you buy a big enough silo

1. **What style of silo suits me best?**

Enclosed silos are ideal where you are using bags or barrows – the feed is not caught in the wind and you are protected from the weather.

Legged silos are ideal for connecting to auger systems – they can also be used to fill bags and barrows

Offset silos are ideal if you are filling loader buckets – with the cone to the side any sized bucket can be used.

1. **Whats the benefit of the “rolled body”?**

The rolled body has a seam around the outside of the silo which is watertight and adds additional strength to the body. As the seam is on the outside of the silo the inside wall is smooth with only a few bolts to attach brackets. This leaves very little opportunity for feed to stick to the walls.

1. **Why do you use the butterfly valve chute to empty the silo?**

We have found it to be the best method of controlling the flow of feed. Customers have found that slides tend to get stuck, freeze, rust and generally degrade. The paddle system can be locked to prevent accidental opening.

1. **I have a feeder wagon - what’s the best options for me**.

We have 3 options and it depends on what suits you best.

The **silo on its own gantry** allows you to drive through and operates with a chain and pulley system – this is the fastest filling system we have. However it takes the largest footprint and is the highest silo

The **High Leg Offset** is a side discharge system. The big benefit is that there is no flat wall which prevents bridging. It uses the chain and pulley system to open.

The **Silo and Auger** uses a reverse drive auger – the motor sits under the cone and pushes the feed out at a rate of 200 kg per minute. The auger is fitted to a standard enclosed silo and comes prewired down to a blue plug – all that’s needed is a blue socket. The auger is a 4 inch rigid auger. The auger motor is at a good height for working on and it also acts as a wee vibration unit which helps draw down the feed.

1. **What maintenance is needed?**

The silo must be checked every few months to make sure that no feed gets stuck. When feed gets stuck it normally is where the body meets the cone. Just look through the hatch on the cone and if required brush out the silo. Feed with Molasses in it should not be stored in a silo. Free flowing material should only be stored in a silo.

1. **I am connecting an auger – can I take a bucket of feed out**

Yes – where we fit an auger plate to connect an auger to a silo we also fit a 6 inch bagging spoutto the side of the cone allowing you to remove feed manually.

1. **Can I pipe my silo into a shed?**

Yes – we can adjust the offset silo so that the bagging chute can be brought into a shed and emptied in the shed. To do this we will need specific information about the customers site (is the ground at the same level inside and outside the shed?, how thick is the wall it going through?, how close can the silo get to the shed wall?, what height does the bagging chute need to be off the ground?). There is a small additional cost.

1. **Will a split silo still stand with one side empty and the other full?**

Yes. Split silos are very popular in Ireland where there are a lot of mixed farms and on sites where there is not a lot of space. We have been making split silos for over 40 years and are yet to experience a problem with split silos. All our silos are designed by Mechanical Engineers who have a background in agricultural product design.

1. **Why is the filler bend not easy to replace?**

We design the filler bend out of thick gauge metal – it’s not easily replaced as its not designed to wear out.

1. **Condensation - is it an issue?**

All our silos come fitted with a Vent pipe – it’s designed to promote a flow of air above the level of the feed in the silo which will ensure that condensation is removed from the silo. Condensation is mainly caused by warm feed being blown into a silo – if you put your hand on the cone after the silo has been filled you will be able to check if the feed is warm. You need to advise you miller to supply cold feed.

After a silo has been filled – we recommend that you immediately remove a load from the silo to loosen the feed (which has been blown in under pressure and typically will plug a little). This loosens up the feed and allows warm air to rise through the feed to the top of the silo and dissipate.

1. **Do V-Mac Supply auger feed systems?**

No we don’t. We strongly recommend that you talk to your local feed system company. Augers unfortunately occasionally break down and it’s important that you have someone local who can respond to breakdowns. We work with all the feed system suppliers and installer and can help you get the nearest one to you.