**Laser Cutting**

Laser cutters use a focused laser beam to melt, burn, or vaporize the material being cut. The most common laser cutter for metals utilized the melt and blow method where the material being cut is melted by the laser and blown away by a high pressure stream of gas. Laser cutting is often used to cut intricate designs into sheet metal although it does have other uses. A high precision laser micro jet cutting device also exists. This device uses a low pressure stream of water to guide the laser beam and also helps with material removal and helps cool the part as it is being cut.

**Uses:**

* Cutting
* Boring
* Trimming
* Scribing
* Engraving

**Tolerance:**

Down to 0.001 in

**Advantages:**

* High speed cutting perfect for multiple complex parts
* Extreme accuracy in cutting procedure
* Accuracy is not dependent on the depth of the cut
* Cut leaves a high quality finish
* Small area of heat effected material which allows for less chance of warping
* Relatively low cost, quotes are available at most companies

**Disadvantages:**

* Extreme heat exposure at point of cut
* Changeover time from cutting iron to aluminum is high. Most companies only cut ferrous materials unless a large aluminum order is made.
* Heat discoloration may occur

**Companies offering Services**

**Precision Cutting technologies**

16208 East LaCrosse Lane

Spokane, WA 99216

**PH:** (509)-922-8755

**FX:** (509)-622-8746

**Web:** http://www.precisionh2o.com

**Additional capabilities:**

* Water jet cutting
* CNC lathe work

**Technifab Inc.**

E. 5714 First Ave

Spokane, WA 99212

**PH:** (509)-534-1022

**FX:** (509)-534-1183

**Web:** http://www.technifab.net

**Additional capabilities:**

* Forming
* Punching
* grain finishing
* rolling, welding
* plasma cutting

**Forest steel**

7448 Aqua Circle

Dalton Gardens, ID 83815

**PH:** (208)-762-4766

**FX:** (208)-762-5210

**Web:** http://www.foreststeel.com

**Additional capabilities:**

* Laser cutting
* Flame cutting
* Plasma cutting
* Breaking
* Shearing
* Sawing
* Steel rolling

**Additional Information:**

* Large stock of material on hand
* Ships to Pullman regularly