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AmeriLux News

AmeriLux International is a value-adding distributor of multiwall and corrugated polycarbonate sheet products, PVC sheet and liner panels, and steel coil.

Featured Project:

Eagle Project | A Polycarbonate Greenhouse

Brice Henthorn is a Boy Scout in Troop 608 based out of Beloit, Wisconsin. For his Eagle project, he spent six weeks building a polycarbonate greenhouse for the Merrill Park Community Garden. A communal garden located in one of the city's neighborhood parks.

Because he had volunteered at the garden, Brice knew that a greenhouse would help reduce the garden's dependency of seedlings from outside sources. An off-handed comment made by a woman running the Community Garden confirmed there was a need for one so Brice decided to run with the idea.



"This will allow the garden to become more self-sufficient by being able to start the plants from seeds instead of buying plants that have been already started," Brice explained. "This will also give them another teaching opportunity for the community. They will be able to teach community members how to plant from seeds."



Basing his design on plans he found online, Brice built the 8' x 6'7" greenhouse with help from volunteers and materials donated by local companies. The wood frame was covered with LEXAN™ VEROLITE™ 8mm clear twin wall polycarbonate panels. After doing his research, Brice chose polycarbonate as the covering because it was a much more durable glazing option. He wanted a product that would last.

Building the greenhouse was a big learning experience for Brice. He had not built anything like this before. "The installation process was very easy," says Brice. "We followed the instructions that were on the panels. The U- and H-channels went on smoothly and cutting the panels was very easy with a new blade. I would say the installation process was very user-friendly."

"He was in charge of the project and handled it well. To me it is a showcase of what can be done and will greatly help the neighborhood in their garden. To me a sense of pride." - Lowell Fjalstad, Scoutmaster Troop 608

Donors who supported Brice's Eagle project: *Jewett Cameron Company, Bayliss Autovents, First Community Credit Union, Western Container Corporation, UMC Tuesday 500 Club, Terra Yard Creations, Home Depot, Adaptive Plastics, Avid Pallet, AmeriLux International, Sherwin Williams, Murmac Paints, Fastenal, Domino's Pizza, Vince's Pizza, Chubby Bubba's, Ace Hardware, Lycon Inc., Old Fashion Bakery, and Walmart.*

Meet the A-Team:

DC (Distribution Center) Multiwall Team

The multiwall crew has been working in the new building for about four weeks. Even with a learning curve, they haven't missed a beat. "Things have been going very well," said Jeff Rukamp. "It's a lot more organized with the new racking system. There's more room for material here. And, the sheets are right in front of us instead of having to move the cutting table all around the building."



Cody & Jeff

Jeff, who's been with AmeriLux for a little over a year, went on to say, "It took us awhile to figure out how long it would take to cut an order using the Hubtex to get a skid down, but I feel we have a good rhythm now. We know what we have to do and how we go from one end of the building to the other with it."

"The Hubtex was a little intimidating at first, but it's pretty easy once you get the hang of it," Cody Potts says. "It's a huge time saver. Efficiency has improved across the board." Cody joined the A-Team in May and helps Jeff facilitate the multiwall orders. "Whatever I've got to do," he added, smiling, "I just go do it!"



Jake, Jeff & Cody

The new material handler has eliminated a lot of the physical labor associated with moving polycarbonate sheets. "We're no longer just relying on strong backs. Getting the job done with the Hubtex is a lot less strenuous," said Jake Chamberlain, Area Leader. "The new building has been built to fit the material. A reversal to how we use to do things. We're creating whole new processes and becoming even more efficient. It's about adding value."

Three biggest benefits of the new building: Jeff - "Space" | Cody - "Efficiency" | Jake - "No More Double Handling"

In the News:

Happy Halloween from AmeriLux International!

Even though the holiday is today, AmeriLux enjoyed some Halloween fun yesterday. Several A-Team members dressed up for the costume contest. Costumes included a whimsical scarecrow, a comical cow, the grim reaper, and a dancing Cat in the Hat. The winner - a creative yet disturbing pregnant zombie! A tasty potluck lunch was enjoyed by all.



A-Team Costumes



Runner-ups & Winner



1st Place

Featured Product



Fasteners

Fasteners are a key component of most building projects. Using the right fastener size and type is very important.

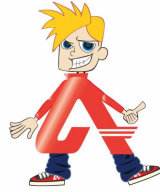
When the wrong fastener is used, both the fastener and the panel can fail. Proper fastener selection will help ensure the panel system will last for years.

There are many factors to consider when selecting a fastener including length, color, panel thickness, the type of structure, and environmental conditions. Every application is different.

AmeriLux is proud to offer an assorted variety of durable fasteners to complement its multiwall and corrugated polycarbonate sheet products and PVC sheet and liner panels.

[Call 888-602-4441 or visit our website for more product information.](http://www.amerilux.com)

Ask the Tech Expert



Q: What are the flutes in a multiwall polycarbonate sheet?

A: Multiwall polycarbonate is characterized by a hollow rectangular structure that runs the length of the sheet. This structural configuration is known as 'flutes', 'ribs', or 'channels'.

The flutes trap air, creating an excellent thermal barrier. The flutes also give the sheet its strength and long spanning capabilities.

To prevent dirt, dust and insects from entering the flutes, seal the panel ends with tape and/or U-profiles. Use 'vent tape' and/or drill weep holes along the bottom edge for condensation drainage.

Flutes should be cleared before sealing the ends. Debris may be removed from the flutes using a vacuum or blow out with compressed air. It is not recommended to flush the flutes with water.

[For a list of our most frequently asked questions.](#)

DIY Tip of the Month



"Snow Loads"

Snow loads can be influenced by where you live, general weather patterns, the wind, air moisture, roof configurations, and slope. Typically, snow accumulates more on flat or low slope roofs.

Even though polycarbonate panels offer outstanding snow load capabilities, wet snow can be very heavy.

It's important not to let snow pile up. Without being removed, that snow weight may cause damage to your structure.

A wide, soft bristle push broom may be used to gently pull off the top snow without damaging the polycarbonate panels.

Always check with your local building code authority for snow load requirements in your area before starting your next project.