

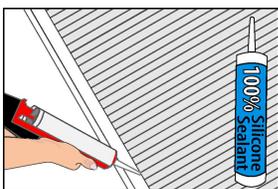
August 2019

AmeriLux News



Polycarbonate & Sealant Compatibility "Choosing the Right Type Matters"

Sealants have been used for years in the building and construction industry. In general, sealants are used to fill in gaps to keep out debris or create a seal against wind and water. But not all sealants are the same, choosing the right type is important and really does matter. Selecting the correct sealant requires understanding its chemical makeup and performance characteristics. Choose the wrong sealant and it could cost you a great deal of time and money!



There are a wide variety of sealants available on the market today. Silicone is a material that is found in sealants, caulk, and adhesives. The main difference

between a sealant and a caulk is elasticity. When caulk dries, it becomes rather rigid. Sealants are not actually an adhesive, but they do have adhesive qualities. Sealants typically have a lower strength and higher elongation than adhesive. Silicone sealant is a liquid form of adhesive and looks like a gel. Unlike some adhesives, silicone sealants must cure.

There is no one type of silicone that should be used for every project because they all have different adhesion, flexibility, durability, elasticity, and resistance properties. Silicone sealants are defined by their cure mechanism. The three main types of silicone sealant are acetoxy cure

Featured Product LEXAN™ THERMOCLEAR™ 6mm Twin Wall



A member of the LEXAN™ THERMOCLEAR™ product family, 6mm multiwall polycarbonate is a lightweight yet durable sheet that is easy to fabricate and install. UV protected on one side, this high-performance sheet offers long-term light transmission and weather resistance.

An ideal alternative to traditional glazing, this multiwall sheet is a great material choice for commercial, industrial, and residential applications. LEXAN™ THERMOCLEAR™ 6mm polycarbonate sheets are stocked in clear, white, opal, and bronze.

Need help choosing the right glazing product for your next project? Click the product brochure link below or call 888-602-4441 to speak to an A-Team member!

[Product Brochure](#)

Ask the Tech Expert



Q. Do I need to be concerned about

thermal expansion and contraction when installing my polycarbonate panels?

As the name suggests, a 100% silicone sealant is not 'cut' with any solvents or oils.

Even though polycarbonate profiles fit plenty tight and do a good job of keeping the flutes free of dust and dirt, a sealant is often used to ensure a tight seal between the multiwall sheet and the profile system. Not surprisingly, AmeriLux receives many sealant related questions.

Here's a few of the mostly commonly asked questions with responses from Stephanie Bitzan, AmeriLux Customer Relations Manager.

What type of sealant should be used with multiwall or corrugated polycarbonate sheets?

"We only recommend using a 100% silicone on polycarbonate sheets. Silicone sealants are durable, adhere well, and are resistant to the sun, moisture, weathering, and temperature change."



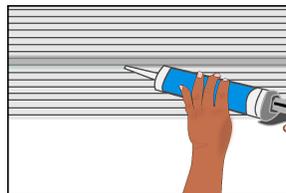
What are the consequences of using a sealant that is incompatible with polycarbonate?

"You have to be careful when sealing polycarbonate. Using the wrong sealant may cause cracking or a condition called crazing. This is when fine lines appear on the surface of the sheet. Many manufacturers will void their warranties if an incompatible product is used."

What about a sealant that has been around for years by the name of Butyl?

"Butyl Bad! It may have its uses, but not, I repeat, not for sealing polycarbonate sheets. Even if the adhesive manufacturer says it's okay to use, check with the sheet manufacturer before using."

Silicone sealants have had success in structural glazing applications because they do not degrade in the sunlight and they resist mold, mildew, and most chemicals. The material does not yellow over time and can be applied at virtually any temperature. The silicone sealant's unique polymer structure remains flexible over time, allowing for polycarbonate sheet movement without failing.



"Silicone sealants maintain their elasticity and stability in both high and low temperatures."

Using the wrong sealant can cause serious sheet degradation, void the warranty, and cost a significant amount of money and time to fix. Bottom line - do your homework and make sure the sealant is compatible with polycarbonate and meets all the required criteria.

thermal expansion and contraction when installing my polycarbonate panels?

A. Yes, polycarbonate panels will expand and contract due to changes in temperature. To allow for this movement, consider the following when measuring, cutting, and fastening panels.

- Movement occurs in both the sheet's length and width.
- Allow for .04" per foot for 100° of temperature change.
- Pre-drill holes 1/16" larger than screw diameter.
- Use at least a 1/2" non-conductive EDPM bonded washer with corrugated sheets and 3/4" with multiwall sheets.

Bronze polycarbonate sheets heat up faster, leading to greater expansion and contraction. The greatest amount of movement occurs during the Spring and Fall months

[More FAQ's](#)

DIY Tip of the Month **"Window Well Covers"**



Basement flooding, unsightly leaf pile-up, potential intruders, and dangerous falls may result from an uncovered window well. These issues can be prevented by installing a window well cover.

For a do-it-yourself option, consider building your own window well cover using multiwall polycarbonate. This virtually unbreakable material is highly durable and can withstand flying stones, hail, and accidental impact.

Translucent in nature, multiwall polycarbonate well covers allow natural light into the basement. This feature makes the basement an enjoyable extension of your home rather than a cold, dark room.

Need a custom size or shape? Multiwall polycarbonate is lightweight, flexible, and can easily be cut with common household tools.

Keep your window wells clean and safe

The following is a list of frequently recommended silicone sealants for use with polycarbonate.

- **GE – Contractor’s Sealant SCS1000**
- **GE – Construction Sealant SCS1200**
- **GE – SilPruf™ Sealant SCS2000**
- **Dow Corning – 999 Silicone Sealant**
- **Dow Corning – 795 Silicone Sealant**

***Always check with the polycarbonate sheet manufacturer before using any sealant.**

for family and pets with this simple DIY project!

Note: Window wells are considered an emergency exit. Check with your local building authority on code requirements for egress window covers.

Company Highlights

Meet the A-Team | Tim Fikkert

AmeriLux is excited to welcome back Tim Fikkert to the A-Team! As the Director of the Architectural Division and Design Services, Tim will be focused on growing the architectural market through developing existing relationships and finding new opportunities.

“This position is going to involve exploring new ways to sell our architectural products,” Tim said. “The details of that are to draw on twelve plus years of design and sales experience in the building and construction industry to find projects that would benefit from multiwall polycarbonate, help connect the right people, and the components to make it all possible.”

With limitless potential for product development in the building and construction industry, Tim describes some of the challenges with his new role: “Finding what to pursue first. There are a lot of opportunities, products to explore, and people to contact. Knowing where to start can be a challenge. The good news is, we don’t need to overthink it. We can start making plays and refine what works.”

Fun Fact: While living in Missouri, Tim had three goats, four chickens, and a cat his co-workers had found in the parking lot. The cat made the move and now has new playmates – two fluffy rabbits!



“I love taking on challenges and opportunities, meeting new people, and learning more about our products.”

AmeriLux has a great team and provides a place to not only come up with new ideas, but the backing to make them happen.”



August's Brand Ambassador

This month’s Brand Ambassador is Tyler Brown. He is being recognized for exemplifying the AmeriLux core value statement “Is This A Great Country, Or What?!” Well-deserved Tyler!

“I strive to embrace this culture statement by setting the intention to wake up every day focused on the vast amount of possible opportunities here.

There’s no telling how much can be achieved when we focus on what we have rather than what we don’t have.

We live in a country that fought long and hard for our values and freedoms. I feel we have a responsibility to those who fought, to our communities, our families, and ourselves – that is, to maximize the freedom we have every day by continually succeeding at all life’s aspects.

I also believe we live in the greatest country in the world. I choose to focus on all the abundance surrounding us and know that each day has the potential to be the best day of our lives!” – Tyler Brown, Business Development Leader

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW WE SUCCEED AT AMERILUX, [CLICK HERE](#)

Links of Interest:

- **[Featured in the July issue of Greenhouse Management, more than 100 U.S. and Canada greenhouse growers were surveyed to assess the horticulture industry's use of various structures.](#)**
- **[Located in Puebla, Mexico, a rooftop patio's transformation features a series of arched coverings. Each clad with different daylighting effects including a transparent polycarbonate corrugated sheets.](#)**
- **[Creating a glowing effect, a temporary arts hub at Harvard University is covered with glass as well as white polycarbonate panels to give a homogeneous appearance.](#)**

AmeriLux International | AmeriLux Logistics

Phone: 920-336-9300 or 888.602.4441

Email: info@ameriluxinternational.com

Website: www.ameriluxinternational.com

Connect with us

