



Midwest 'California Contemporary' Home Polycarbonate Roof Solutions



California contemporary homes are known for their clean lines, open floor plans, and ample large windows. This style home emphasizes a connection with nature, often blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor living spaces. For year-round warm-weather states like California, contemporary architecture is an ideal design for a house.

On the other hand, a California contemporary home built in the Midwest has its drawbacks. This is because another distinctive feature of this style home is its 'no eaves, no overhang' sleek exterior.

For Rob Belles, this meant the open patios on the front and back of his contemporary home in Northern Illinois were more of problem than an asset. The front patio would fill with snow in the winter, making the front door unusable. The absence of eaves also created water issues along the patio walls.

With no natural covering or protective overhangs, sun control and solar heat gain were additional problems. The intense afternoon sun made the front patio unenjoyable and the foyer too warm. While the narrow overhang above the upper back windows did little to block the sunlight streaming in through the lower windows.

The creative architectural solution to this contemporary home's shortcomings? Translucent multiwall polycarbonate glazing! The polycarbonate roof built over the front patio provides the ideal amount of natural light, creating comfortable shade yet allowing visibility of the sky above.

A long polycarbonate overhang added to the rear of the home reduces sun glare and window heat gain without affecting views of the backyard. It even offers a little weather protection to get from the patio door to the grill.

Rob Belles, a board-certified architect, shared his personal experience using polycarbonate roofing panels in one of his recent blog posts. [Read on >>](#)



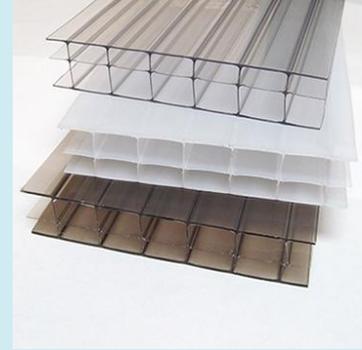
CoverLite 25mm 2UV 3-Wall Polycarbonate Sheet

This multiwall polycarbonate product combines high light transmission and good thermal insulation in a lightweight yet durable sheet.

Featuring three walls and two 'air-trapping' layers, the sheets triple-wall structure increases its thermal insulation properties and its durability to withstand higher wind and snow loads.

The two-sided ultraviolet (UV) protection provides excellent weather resistance and eliminates accidentally installing the sheet with the unprotected side facing outward.

From residential patio covers to commercial canopies and awnings, we are here to help you find the right glazing product for your next project.



[Click to request more product info](#)

DIY Tip of the Month

Defining Spaces



Make better use of large open spaces with multiwall polycarbonate partitions! Because multiwall sheets are translucent, a level of privacy can be maintained while still allowing daylight to pass through. Polycarbonate sheets are printable, allowing you to customize your space with words and graphics.

- Partition Wall
- Folding Screen
- Sliding Privacy Door
- Office Cubicles
- Permanent Partition
- Hanging Room Divider

Better-defined spaces can improve comfort and productivity in office, gym, and home settings. Durable in nature, multiwall sheets hold up for years and are resistant to breakage, even in high traffic areas.



Frequently Asked Polycarbonate Question

Q: How do you keep dust and dirt out of the flutes of a multiwall polycarbonate sheet?

A. Before installation, apply sealing tape to both ends of the polycarbonate sheet to prevent dust, bugs, and other debris from entering the flutes. We recommend using a high-quality vent tape on the bottom edge of the sheet to allow for moisture drainage.



[More FAQs](#)

Polycarbonate in Architecture

Architectural Applications



Why Polycarbonate?

Translucent polycarbonate sheets provide pleasing daylight in a variety of architectural applications. The sheets are 200-times stronger than glass, ensuring breakage resistance even in areas subject to high traffic, vandalism, and natural forces.

Light in weight, polycarbonate requires less structural support than all-glass systems, saving material and labor costs. The structured form of multiwall sheets provides great thermal efficiency for energy savings.

Excellent Architectural Applications



Stadiums



Pool Enclosures



Skylights



Covered Walkways



Canopies



Curtain Walls

Links of Interest

- [Seeking more functional spaces, these homeowners reduced the size of their home and took advantage of daylight with polycarbonate](#)
- [Designed to appeal to sustainable-minded outdoor enthusiasts, this Yucca Valley cabin is glazed with polycarbonate for spectacular desert views](#)
- [Diamond-shaped motorcycle shed is crafted from stainless steel and multiwall polycarbonate](#)

News from Shape Products

Types of Egress Window Wells: Pros and Cons

There are many different materials to choose from when designing your egress window well. Although one option may be more appealing than another, homeowners will want to understand the key benefits and drawbacks for each before deciding. Understanding the type of material that you are using could save you money on repairs and replacements down the road.

Wood

Homeowners often chose pretreated wood for their window well due to its attractive look. With many options on the market, you can choose from a variety of styles to fit the existing style of your home. While there are benefits to using wood for its aesthetics, there are drawbacks that could be costly in the long run. Wood breaks down as moisture in the soil begins to penetrate, causing it to rot and require replacement. Homeowners will want to consider the lifespan of the wood used when deciding on this material for their well.



Concrete

Affordability and durability make cement an appealing option to homeowners. Concrete, like wood, tends to break down with long-term exposure to moisture. This could cause your window well to deteriorate over time, requiring touch-ups to maintain its strength.

Metal

We would recommend metal wells over the previous two options for several reasons. Metal wells are waterproof and durable, and they hold their shape in any climate. If you are worried about leaking, you can rest easy with a metal well as they deflect 98% of rain according to [Do It Yourself](#). However, window wells don't offer the same clean, finished look. Homeowners could opt to apply a liner to decorate them if they want the benefits while still giving space an elevated look and feel.

Fiberglass

Fiberglass egress window wells combine all the benefits. Strategically placed glass fibers combined with resin give fiberglass its impeccable strength and durability. Fiberglass doesn't rust, rot, or deteriorate under extreme conditions as with other materials that can be used for window wells, making it an ideal option for longevity. Additionally, fiberglass can be designed to mimic a variety of textures. Shape Products offers two fiberglass [egress window wells](#) that are designed to imitate natural landscaping textures.

With all the benefits of a fiberglass egress window well, they come at a higher price than the alternatives. Though homeowners may want to weigh the cost of the well against the cost of repair and replacement before deciding on their well.

Company Highlights

Meet the A-Team

Employee Spotlight | Alex Byrne

Alex joined the A-Team last summer as the Director of Sales and Marketing for the recently acquired Shape Products Division. With a strong background in sales and business development, Alex is a great fit to lead Shape Products into its next chapter of sales growth.

A typical day for Alex involves customer communication, strategy development, and market research as well as collaborating with the customer relations and marketing teams. "The opportunity to collaborate with a team of individuals that is focused on advancing the Shape brand through sales and marketing efforts is something I really appreciate about my role." Alex went on to say he enjoys being part of a culture that allows team members to grow, take chances, and strive to reach their potential.

Over the next five years, Alex is looking to grow the Shape Products organization by expanding their scope of work. "We are focused on finding customers that have a need for thermoforming and compression molding to determine if our equipment is capable of fulfilling their requirements."



"To work for a family-owned company and help lead the sales and marketing efforts for Shape Products was a tremendous opportunity."

Make a Play!



How We Succeed At AmeriLux

At AmeriLux, we believe in the value of taking thoughtful, decisive action based on knowledge, experience, and understanding. We encourage one another to "go for it," knowing that every move is, at the very least, a learning opportunity.

"The only people that have never made a mistake are people that have never done anything.' We are predisposed to take action, because failure to make a decision gives all control away to outside forces. We take control of our individual and collective future by engaging in meaningful action, accepting that we will make some mistakes along the way. We believe the only true failure is a failure to learn from mistakes and improve."

The AmeriLux Family of Companies

AmeriLux International

AmeriLux Transportation & Logistics

Shape Products

