

## Daylight Utilization on Animal Farms "The Role & Importance of Natural Light"



Scientific research has proven that human's function better when exposed to daylight. The same can be said for farm animals. Yet, lighting is an environmental factor that is often overlooked in the design of agricultural buildings. Even though it is just as important as proper ventilation, heating, and cooling.

In recent years, there has been an increased interest in making farm buildings and structures more sustainable and improving the well-being of domestic farm animals. Incorporating more natural daylight into a building design delivers a

good cost benefit ratio. The added cost can easily be justified by numerous welfare, health, and production benefits.

In livestock, horse, and poultry facilities, bringing natural light into the building has a profound effect on animal and bird comfort, behavior, and productivity. It can also improve both the profitability and working conditions on a farm. More natural lighting means artificial lights can be dimmed or even turned off. Daylighting saves energy!

When it comes to lighting on animal farms, the most crucial factors include the length of day, the intensity, the distribution, and the color of the light. Polycarbonate skylights, ridge caps, and sidelites are among the most durable glazing options that provide good, natural daylighting.

Like people, most animal and bird lives revolve around a regular day-and-night cycle. Access to adequate periods of light and darkness encourages a natural circadian rhythm. Starting at an early age, natural lighting affects many distinct aspects of an animal's productive life.

Proper lighting is essential in areas where farm animals are handled. Light illumination should be diffused and uniform. Bright spots and shadows minimized. Polycarbonate glazing diffuses light evenly while maintaining elevated levels of light transmission. Natural light is scattered in many different directions throughout the building, creating a shadow-free environment.

Studies show an animal's stress level can be reduced moving through an alley or chute by illuminating the interior of a building with diffused, natural light. In general, when farm buildings are filled with natural light, the



animals are less aggressive and calmer. Daylight makes them feel happy, just like the farmers!

Daylighting not only saves energy; it also produces many positive results. As energy codes become more stringent and the demand for green buildings continues to rise, implementing natural lighting into both new construction and renovations will become even more important.



There are many advantages to using polycarbonate versus other types of glazing material for daylighting applications. Available in a variety of colors and translucencies, polycarbonate is virtually unbreakable and offers a high degree of light transmittance. The UV-protected outer surface helps to maintain the superior toughness of the material — polycarbonate panels will last for years!



*To learn more about the advantages of using polycarbonate glazing for your next project, please call 888-602-4441 to speak to a knowledgeable member of the AmeriLux A-Team.*

## Featured Product

### EZ Liner® PVC Liner Panels

Perfect for wall and ceiling applications, EZ Liner® is a PVC based polymer product that is manufactured in Canada using 100% virgin lead free material.

EZ Liner® panels are light in weight, require minimal maintenance, and the surface is easy to clean by power washing. The panels tongue-and-groove interlocking system makes both vertical and horizontal installation quick and easy.

- Hidden Fasteners Create a Smooth Finish
- Pre-Slotted Nailing Flange for Easy Installation
- Resistant to Moisture and Most Chemicals
- Class A Fire and Smoke Rating, Non-Flammable

Designed for the most demanding indoor applications, the EZ Liner® PVC interlocking liner panel complies with the National Building Code of Canada, the International Building Code, and meets all FDA and CFIA requirements.



*The EZ Liner® ceiling and wall system comes with a full line of trims to help make your installation effortless and provide a finished, professional look.*

[Visit Product Page](#)

## DIY Tip of the Month

### Outdoor Yard Games

The summer countdown has begun and every warm weather event needs a few fun outdoor yard games.

Why not build your own and

## Protective Masking Film



save some money? All it takes is some basic construction know-how and a little creativity. Here's a few great DIY ideas:

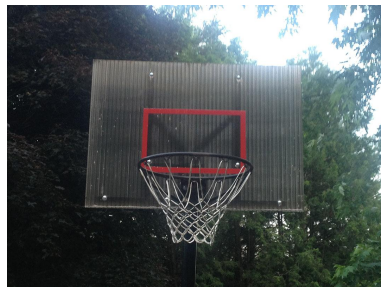
Make your own **Bean Bag Toss** game (also known as cornhole or bags). The frame can easily be built out of wood and a polycarbonate panel is a great option for the cover board. Extremely durable, polycarbonate is easy to drill and fabricate, cutting 'circles' is simple with a jigsaw. Like the Bags game, a **DIY Football Toss** board can also be constructed with a similar wood frame and polycarbonate front board. Paint it to match your favorite sports team! Are you thinking about replacing that damaged **Basketball Backboard**? Designed to take a slam, polycarbonate panels are resistant to weathering, available in a wide range of thicknesses, and can easily be cut into the classic fan shape.



#### Polycarbonate Benefits Include:

- Virtually Unbreakable
- UV and Weather Resistant
- Easy to Handle & Cut
- Lightweight yet Durable

Get everyone laughing, smiling, and playing at your next outdoor get together with these DIY yard games. Perfect for backyard barbecues and summer gatherings. And you can say you made it yourself!



**Q:** Should the protective masking film be removed before cutting a polycarbonate sheet?

**A.** No, the protective masking should remain in place during cutting and installation to protect the sheet but be removed immediately after the sheet is installed.

The masking film indicates the UV protected side of the sheet which needs to face towards the sun. Installing polycarbonate sheets with the wrong side out will void the warranty.

**Note:** Occasionally, the masking can stick to the polycarbonate sheet. To avoid accumulated heat effects, store sheets in a cool, dry place out of the direct sun.

[More FAQs](#)

## Safety Tips for Installing Polycarbonate Sheets

### Polycarbonate Installation Safety Tips



Installing polycarbonate sheets requires the usual safety precautions, plus a few you might not have thought of. Always read the installation and warranty info before starting your project. Mistakes can be dangerous and costly!

Although cutting or drilling polycarbonate is relatively safe and easy, it's important to keep your work area clean and dry to prevent injury. Hand and power tools should be in good working condition. Always use the right tool for the task! Do not leave unfastened sheets unattended. Despite being virtually unbreakable, never walk directly on polycarbonate sheets after they are installed.

#### SAFETY FIRST!



**Cover Your Hands**  
Gloves provide protection from potential cuts or abrasions.



**Protect Your Eyes**  
Always wear glasses when cutting, drilling, or fastening panels.



**Provide Proper Support**  
If you must walk or kneel on sheets, use a sturdy board for support.



**Read All Instructions**  
Carefully read the install guidelines and warranty info.

## Links of Interest

- [The building materials used for this architect's new studio work in a harmonious way, including the polycarbonate sliding doors that maximize the flow of natural light as well as offer privacy.](#)
- [The Sandi Simon Center for Dance in southern California features translucent polycarbonate walls, creating a wonderful light-filled educational and performing arts venue.](#)
- [When it comes to commercial buildings, incorporating daylighting strategies creates a healthier indoor environment, improves air quality, and reduces energy consumption.](#)

## Company Highlights

### AmeriLux Plans \$40 Million Expansion

Earlier this month, the City of De Pere Finance Committee approved a plan for AmeriLux to purchase approximately twenty-three acres in De Pere's East Industrial Business Park. This city-owned land is located about one mile south of the company's current Wisconsin headquarters.

The plan is to develop this site into two buildings totaling approximately 500,000 square feet of warehousing, distribution, and manufacturing space. Contingent upon official approval at the next Common Council meeting, construction is anticipated to begin later this year with occupancy in late 2025.

While plans continue to take shape, this expansion is estimated to create between 60 and 100 new AmeriLux jobs. Employment opportunities will include warehouse and management personnel as well as a need for additional truck drivers. The project is estimated at \$40 million.

[Click here to read the article featured in the Green Bay Press-Gazette.](#)



*“The expansion represents a win-win that helps De Pere increase its tax base and positions the company and its workers to chase their potential,” said Kurt Voss, CEO and owner of AmeriLux Family of Companies.*



### Meet the A-Team

Employee Spotlight | Buddy Pullen

Prior to joining the A-team in January of 2023, AmeriLux was a customer of Buddy's. Because of his positive interactions with the A-team, he knew that if the time came to decide to leave his former employer this was a company and a culture, he wanted to be a part of.

“The ‘win-win’ statement stands out the most to me and it was a principle I was working on years before arriving here without even knowing it.”

As a Regional Sales Manager for AmeriLux International, Buddy is responsible for finding new customers and approaches to the market, keeping the sales wheels



turning at all times. "More importantly my role is to provide intelligence to the entire team about what is happening out in the world." That is, he explained, "whose price is going up or down, who is experiencing long lead times or quality issues, who is merging or being bought out, and what we can do to capitalize on that intelligence."

When asked why first impressions are so important in sales and customer service, Buddy had this response: "You get one chance to make a first impression and I believe that most customers decide if they are going to buy from me in the first 10-15 minutes of talking. They want to know if I am familiar with the products and installation specs and that I will be the decision maker should they experience any issues. That peace of mind goes a long way to building their confidence in me."

*"It is something different every day, and the problem-solving aspect is what keeps me engaged."*

## "We Don't Drink Our Own Kool-Aid"



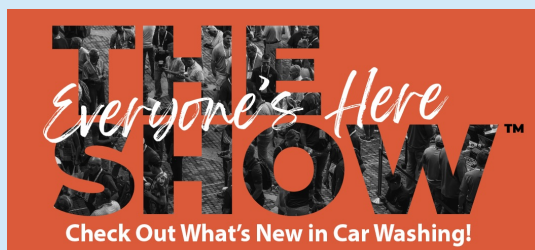
"We have the audacity to expect success, but we make a conscious effort to handle it with humility. We remember that our stakeholders determine whether we are successful. We make an effort to avoid false paradigms and remain open-minded. "It's not what you don't know that limits you, it's what you do know that isn't so." We acknowledge that others help produce our wins, both inside and outside the company, and express our gratitude to them."

**April's Brand Ambassador: Valerie Giese**  
Continuous Improvement Leader - AFOC

How We Succeed at AmeriLux

## The Car Wash Show

AmeriLux International will be exhibiting at The Car Wash Show in Nashville next month. This annual trade show is the largest gathering of owners, managers, and decision-makers in the car wash industry.



From the latest customer experience technologies to state-of-the-art wash systems, this year's event is full of innovations, ideas, and opportunities to connect with car wash operators. Over 420 exhibitors, featuring hundreds of new products!

- **When: May 13th - 15th**
- **Where: Music City Center, Nashville, TN**
- **Booth# 755**

Make your carwash stand out from the competition with our high-quality multiwall polycarbonate panels or PVC products. Stop by and visit our booth for more product information. We'd love to hear about your next project!

**[For show details or to register, please visit The Car Wash Show website.](#)**

## The AmeriLux Family of Companies

[AmeriLux International](#)

[AmeriLux Transportation & Logistics](#)

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