

Build Your Own Greenhouse "Quality, Functionality & Aesthetics"



Backyard greenhouses have become an increasingly popular trend over the last few years. What is the reason for this? A greenhouse protects plants from pests, diseases, and harmful weather, providing the home gardener with fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables throughout the year.

DIY greenhouses require no special tools or skills to build and there are material choices to fit any budget. With some basic construction knowledge and a good set of plans, anyone can put one up! A truly 'green' investment!

"Living in New Hampshire, the growing season is relatively short and winter cabin fever sets in early," said Mike Schidlovsky, a resident of this beautiful northeastern state. In addition, the ever-changing climate in this New England region is a factor as well.

In New Hampshire, the growing season lasts between three to four months across the state. The length is dependent on elevation and location, with the warmer coastal areas having a longer growing season. To get a jump start, many NH gardeners start their seedlings indoors and then transplant them into the garden once the danger of frost has passed.



After looking at many prefabricated and commercial design options, Mike decided it would be fun to build his own greenhouse. "I decided to build my own greenhouse because it seemed like the only way I would get the quality and functionality I was looking for."



These days, there are many types of DIY greenhouses you can choose from. The style and size will depend on the climate where you live and the range of plants you want to grow. Following hours of online and YouTube research, Mike eventually came up with a design that would best fit his needs. "I visited a greenhouse manufacturer and learned a lot there," he explained. "I also consulted some friends who have greenhouses."

The building materials from which your greenhouse is built are very important in ensuring its longevity. This is especially true when it comes to choosing the greenhouse covering. Common glazing materials include poly-film, glass, acrylic, and polycarbonate. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. "From what I researched, polycarbonate was the most cost effective, durable, and easiest to work with." Mike went on to say: "Glass would have been way too expensive and much harder to handle. Polycarbonate is light weight and easy to cut, drill, and screw. Polycarbonate panels

were definitely the way to go!”

A greenhouse is a great DIY project for home gardeners looking to extend the growing season. For those looking to build their own greenhouse, Mike has these words of wisdom: “It takes planning and more time than you think. Don’t cut corners, create a detailed drawing and bill of materials, purchase the best available materials, and use the proper tools. Do your research!”



What type of polycarbonate is best for your greenhouse project? Call today to chat with a friendly and knowledgeable member of the A-Team. We’ll listen to your needs and find a glazing solution that is right for you!

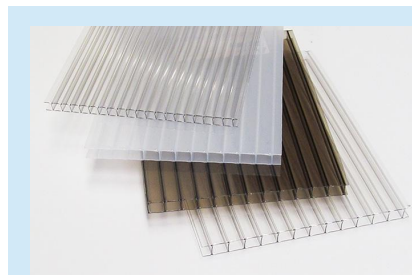
Featured Product

LEXAN™ VEROLITE™ Twin Wall

LEXAN™ VEROLITE™ twin wall polycarbonate sheets are a versatile and economical alternative to traditional glazing. Available in 6mm and 8mm thicknesses, LEXAN™ VEROLITE™ is a great material choice for many applications including carports, pergolas, patio covers, walkways, and greenhouses.

- High Light Transmission
- Excellent Thermal Insulation
- Virtually Unbreakable
- Easily Fabricated On-Site
- Anti-Drip/Anti-Fog Feature

If you would like to learn more about LEXAN™ VEROLITE™ polycarbonate sheets, click on this [product brochure link](#) or call 888.602.4441 to speak to an A-Team member today!



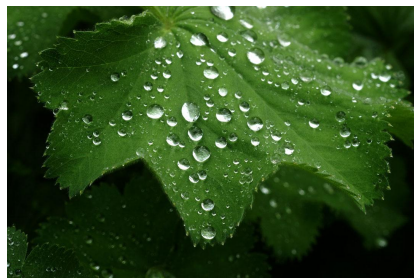
LEXAN™ VEROLITE™ is an affordable option to cover a greenhouse and will live up to your expectations season after season.

[Visit Product Page](#)

DIY Tip of the Month

Anti-Condensation

Multiwall polycarbonate panels are perfect for greenhouses, garden centers, and nurseries where high light transmission is required in a lightweight glazing product.



In addition to these product benefits, an anti-drip coating is another important feature to consider before purchasing your greenhouse covering. This type of interior surface coating reduces the contact angle of condensation. This aids in stopping the formation and dripping of water droplets.

What is a rafter, purlin, and a girt?

Q: What is the difference between a rafter, purlin, and a girt?

A. Understanding the differences between the primary and secondary structural members that make up the framework of a roof can be confusing.

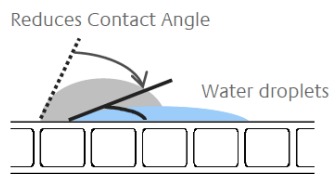
Rafters are primary structural members designed to support the roof deck and its associated loads. These ‘beams’ typically run diagonally from the ridge or hip of the roof to the plates of a building’s exterior walls.

Benefits Include:

- Higher Light Transmission
- Fewer Plant Diseases
- Reduced Need for Pesticides
- Better Quality of Plants

Condensation droplets will reduce natural light transmission and may cause bacterial diseases like leaf spot or bud rot. A

drip guard feature helps ensure condensation is carried away from the roof of your greenhouse, protecting your plants, furnishings, and equipment below from unwanted water damage.



Purlins are secondary structural members that directly support the roof covering. They are specific to the roof and run perpendicular to the slope of the roof, transferring the roof load to the main roof structure such as trusses, load bearing walls, or large rafters.

Girts are also secondary structural members but are used on walls, attaching horizontally to a sidewall or end wall column. These lateral supports provide additional strength and framework as well as resistance to wind loads.

[More FAQs](#)

Thermal Movement of Multiwall Polycarbonate



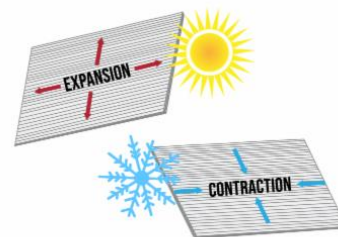
POLYCARBONATE EXPANSION & CONTRACTION



When installing multiwall polycarbonate panels, it is important to keep thermal movement in mind. Meaning, multiwall panels expand and contract due to seasonal temperature changes throughout the year. With the greatest amount of thermal expansion occurring during the Spring and Fall.

Multiwall polycarbonate sheets expand in hot weather and contract in cold, so it is important to allow for about 1/32" of thermal expansion per foot for every 100 degrees of temperature change. Thermal allowance should be made for both the length and width of the panel. Bronze colored panels expand and contract more – requiring an addition 30% space.

INSTALL TIPS



- Plan for thermal expansion
- Install between 55°F - 75°F
- Pre-drilling holes is recommended
- Bronze expands & contracts more

Links of Interest

- [Located in Shenyang, China, the white polycarbonate roof of the Xun Pavilion wedding hall offers filtered natural light, creating the perfect wedding atmosphere.](#)
- [The south-facing canopy of the Four Roof Pavilion in the city of Shenzhen alternates between solid metal and translucent polycarbonate panels, creating a striking diamond pattern.](#)
- [Designed as a three-dimensional open space, this home on the outskirts of Kofu City includes a light-filled, polycarbonate-covered space called the 'Inner Garden'.](#)

Company Highlights

International Women's Day

Celebrated annually on March 8, International



Women's Day (IWD) honors the social, political, economic, and cultural achievements of women.

This year's UN and IWD website themes highlighted the importance of gender equality measures as well as the importance of knocking down barriers, overcoming stereotypes, and creating environments where all women, of all diversities, are respected.

"Some of the amazing women at AFOC!"

Don't Judge People on Their Worst Moments



"We value, respect, and honor the dignity of ALL who come in contact with us. In the pursuit of excellence, we never lose our human compassion. We look for the overall pattern of good in people and encourage people to succeed by playing to their natural strengths. We believe in human potential and invest in helping people grow into the best version of themselves."

March's Brand Ambassador: Hailey Gerend
Staff Accountant - AmeriLux International

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