

February 2008 Subject: Are you confused about daylighting with polycarbonates?

A lot of architects and designers are. Changes in technology. Advances in performance. An amazing array of aesthetic options. If you've never designed with today's translucent polycarbonates, how do you make sense of all this?

Hello! We can help.

December's newsletter brought us calls with all kinds of questions. In this issue, I want to answer some of them for all of you. In upcoming issues, we'll tackle others.

Several questions often come from those new to polycarbonates. Here's a sample.

Does this material turn yellow? No. It did about 20 years ago; now UV protection is coextruded right into the sheet. This guards against color change and clouding.

What kind of fire ratings does it have? Good. Many polycarbonates carry a CC1 – Class A rating. And they're self-extinguishing. Remove the flame source and the fire goes out. Holes allow gases to escape instead of being trapped in the enclosure.

How strong is it? Shatterproof. Multiwall polycarbonate is 200 times stronger than glass, 6 times stronger than acrylic. New textures minimize the appearance of scratches.

How easy is it to design with? Extremely versatile. High strength, light weight mean longer spans with less support. It curves easily. Thicknesses in 8mm to 40mm create simple panels to structural curtainwalls.

What makes it green? Where do we start...exceptional energy efficiency with R-values to 12.5 and beyond. Diffused, comfortable natural light. Recyclable glazing and framing.

How can I balance my design to include high energy efficiency with high visible light? What polycarbonate will work best in my design? What system do I need?

We've heard these questions for 25 years. Here's how we answer at Duo-Gard:

Product Choices: You gain the world's widest diversity in polycarbonates and systems.

System Recommendations: You receive recommended best choices for your project.

Budgeting: You can effectively balance budgeting concerns with design.

Project Management: You have a PM who'll be with you through all project phases.

Engineering Details: You receive technical details, shop and stamped drawings.

Technical Support: You benefit from explanations, illustrations, demonstrations, details.

Installation: You choose options from basic tech support to total turnkey approach.

Call us and see how easy it can be. 800-872-4404. Or visit www.duo-gard.com!

Best regards,

David Miller

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