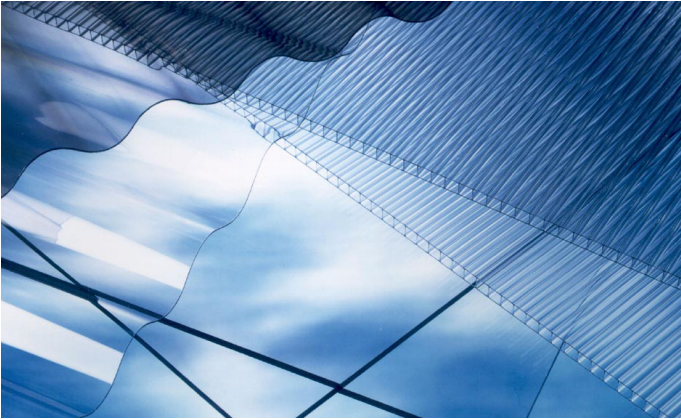




Daylight Systems

Polycarbonate: product care before & after installation



Brett Martin Daylight Systems manufactures polycarbonate in solid, profiled and structured sheet, and incorporated into many other rooflight products.

This advice should be followed for all polycarbonate products.

Precautions are required when installing in-plane polycarbonate rooflights, particularly with plastisol coated sheet, see details in:

Technical Bulletin 141 - In plane polycarbonate: precautions when handling & installing.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

PROTECTIVE FILM

To prevent damage prior to and during installation, polycarbonate rooflights are delivered with a protective film on the weather side of most corrugated sheet, and both sides of flat and structured sheet. The film should be removed after sheet installation, and when the work of following trades is complete. Film should not be allowed to remain in the installed sheet surface for longer than 4 weeks.

STORAGE

Storage should be indoors as far as possible. Where polycarbonate is stored outdoors it must be protected from the sun, wind and water. Any heat build up will make removal of protective film extremely difficult. Cover securely with an opaque waterproof cover and ensure adequate ventilation to prevent heat build up.

AFTER INSTALLATION

Labels, glazing compounds etc. can be removed using a suitable cleaning chemicals listed in CLEANING METHOD, which should then be immediately washed off the sheet, as described in CLEANING METHOD.

MAINTENANCE

The general condition of polycarbonate rooflights, and the security of fixings and sealants should be checked periodically as part of the overall maintenance program for the structure into which they are incorporated. If a rooflight is found to be damaged it must be replaced in accordance with the original specification.

A regular cleaning programme will enhance the appearance and help retain the functional properties of the rooflight. The frequency of cleaning will depend on many factors, including:

- Geographical location of the building
- Environment surrounding building ie marine, industrial, alkaline etc
- Levels of atmospheric pollution
- Prevailing winds
- Protection of the building by other buildings
- Possibility of airborne debris causing erosive wear, ie sand, salt, grit

Cleaning should occur every 12-18 months.



CLEANING METHOD

Polycarbonate should be treated with care:

1. Use generous amounts of lukewarm water to rinse sheet and soften dried dirt.
2. Make up a solution of lukewarm water & ordinary household cleaner or a mild soap, and use this to wash sheets; a sponge or soft cloth should be used to gently remove dirt and grime.
3. Rinse with clean lukewarm water and repeat washing if necessary.
4. After final rinse dry off with a soft cloth.

Polycarbonate rooflights are particularly vulnerable to scratching.

Do not scrub with brushes, abrasive materials or sharp instruments as these will mark the surface.

Never use solvents, alkaline cleaners, thinners or abrasive cleaners.

Never steam clean, use low pressure if pressure washing.

Never use: white spirit, petroleum ether (BP65), methyl alcohol (methanol), acetone, petrol, benzene.

Incorrect cleaning which in any way damages the sheet automatically renders void all warranties.

Check suitability of any cleaner with our Technical Dept before use.

Cleaners which can be used include: Isopropanol (e.g. computer screen wipes), ethyl alcohol (ethanol), white kerosene and WD40

ROOFLIGHT FRAMES

Many of the polycarbonate rooflights, from Brett Martin Daylight Systems, are constructed with frames in polyester powder coated aluminium, or GRP. These frames will require cleaning, as described in the CLEANING METHOD, as there is a need to remove dirt and deposits that could cause damage, during prolonged contact with the polyester powder coating or GRP.



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