

Aluminum Base & Cap™ System | FAQ's

Q. What about leaks, do I need to use gaskets?

A. Properly installed, the Cap of the Base & Cap System provides an excellent seal, even on a 5° pitch. Glass and acrylic are hard materials, requiring a gasket type seal on the glazing system cap. Polycarbonate is a resilient material. When the Cap is snugly installed, the pressure of the legs of the Cap causes the polycarbonate to give slightly, creating a watertight seal.

Q. Do I need to use vent tape?

A. U-Profiles shown below fit snug, but not too tight. Proper install, with 3/8" self-drilling screws and weep holes, results in a maintenance free install. A slight crown in base of U-Profile creates a small trough for water to drain. Also, it is highly unlikely for a cut sheet to perfectly butt into the lower surface of the U-Profile, creating more space for water to drain. Leading edge of U-Profile, with 3/8" screws, virtually eliminates water entry. Add weep holes and a tricky problem is solved!

Q. Where do I use silicone?

A. Minimal use of silicone is recommended. See drawings for the areas we suggest using silicone. Do not use silicone under Cap, except at lower edge of roof.

Q. How do I determine the amount of silicone needed?

A. One tube of silicone will produce 25 linear feet of 1/4" x 1/4" silicone bead. We sell plastic compatible, 100% silicone.

Q. My existing rafter framing is 4 ft. on-center, but the sheet is 4 ft. wide, I would like to use your Base & Cap System, what do you suggest?

A. You can cut the sheet down to 47".

Q. Where is Aluminum Tape used?

A. Aluminum tape is generally used to seal the channels of polycarbonate at the top edge of roof sheets and top of gable end wall sheets. Flashing typically covers the top of the roof sheets. The Corner Trim covers the top of gable end wall sheets and the edge of the roof sheets, at this transition. Use of the U-Profile in these applications would prevent flush fitting of

corner trim, use aluminum tape and cover with corner trim (Please note, some applications such as a patio roof may necessitate use of U-profile at the top edge of roof sheets).

Q. Suggestions for purchasing ridge flashing?

A. Use the lean-to ridge & freestanding ridge details as a guideline. Print the page if the detail is appropriate for your application. Do a scale drawing of the flashing needed for your ridge. Draw so that the leg(s) of the flashing are tilted down 5° from the actual pitch of your roof. This will create a small amount of pressure against the polycarbonate sheet, useful in achieving a watertight installation. Sheet metal should be a minimum of .019" aluminum or 30-gauge steel. Aluminum is easy to fasten through and easy to cut, but it is a little flimsy therefore, care is required when handling. Steel is more sturdy, harder to cut and requires pre-drilling prior to fastening. Availability at your local sheet metal shop may be the limiting factor. Look in the Yellow Pages under Sheet Metal Work.

Q. Do you offer any type of sealing or flashing material other than silicone, for the side of polycarbonate that meets existing roofing or wall?

A. Carlisle Hardcast manufactures a 15 mil Butyl Adhesive Roll Roof Flashing Tape (foil-grip) that is used for a variety of roofing applications. This tape comes in 3" an 6" wide, and is available with an aluminum foil backing. Install the polycarbonate so it almost meets adjacent material and covers the joint with the Flashing Tape. Make sure the polycarbonate is securely fastened to the structure below.