Covered Pergola Transforms Backyard Patio
A Place to Relax and Socialize

A covered pergola can transform your backyard into a comfortable and inviting outdoor living area. With so many people choosing to vacation at home this year, turning your backyard into a personal oasis may be just what you need to make your ‘staycation’ more enjoyable.

Working from her sketches, Brynna Klink and her husband Derek built a beautiful pergola over their patio this summer. They wanted to create an outdoor space where friends and family could come together to relax and socialize. “Because we have small children, we don’t really have tons of opportunities to get away, Brynna explained. “So, after bedtime, this is our happy place.”

Because the weather in lower Michigan is unpredictable and all over the place, the Klinks chose to cover their pergola with durable polycarbonate roof panels. The addition of a pergola cover allows the family to enjoy meals outside even if there is a chance for potential rain showers.

Brynna’s favorite part of their pergola is the clear polycarbonate roof. They had discussed using metal roofing to match their barn, but felt the look was too ‘heavy.’ They were also concerned the metal panels would make the patio area feel closed off from the rest of the backyard.

“I really fell in love with the clear roof when I first saw it. I loved the fact that it would remain light and airy, while still offering protection from the elements. I love the open feel we have out here with tons of sunlight coming in. Many people don’t even notice the roof until we bring it up — which is exactly the feel we were going for.”

Even though he had never worked with corrugated polycarbonate before, Derek felt the installation went incredibly smooth. In fact, he and a friend had the panels installed in just a few hours. One person would stand on the ladder and fasten the panels, while the other would grab more panels and help hold them in place. It was a great system that got the job done quickly!

When asked if they would consider using corrugated polycarbonate panels for another project, Brynna responded with a big smile. “I
was actually just talking about building a greenhouse out of old windows. The panels would make an amazing roof for the project... now I just have to convince my husband to build it for me.

**Featured Product**
LEXAN™ Greca Corrugated

Featuring the latest in product technology, LEXAN™ Greca polycarbonate panels offer outstanding features such as high light transmission, advanced UV protection, and excellent impact resistance.

Constructed of a single layer of high-performance polycarbonate with a “square wave repeating pattern”, working with these durable corrugated panels is simple and easy. Panels are light in weight, easily fabricated on-site, and require no special tools to install.

Panels are available in the following light transmissions:

- Clear (90% LT)
- Softlite (85% LT)
- Opal (52% LT)
- Bronze (25% LT)

**DIY Tip of the Month**
Enhance and Extend your Swimming Season

A multiwall polycarbonate pool enclosure is a great investment that will improve the functionality and appearance of your pool space. Enclosing your pool will extend your swimming season, offer protection from the elements, and reduce pool maintenance.

Why choose a multiwall polycarbonate pool enclosure?

Multiwall polycarbonate sheets are extremely durable and will not shatter into sharp pieces if damaged by strong storms or accidentally impacted by a flying ball.

The sheets are flexible and lightweight, making them easy to install - they can be cold formed on site and require less structural support than traditional pool glazing, saving labor and material costs.

**Frequently Asked Polycarbonate Question**

Q: What is the recommended way to clean a polycarbonate sheet?

A: Use a mild household detergent with a soft rag or sponge. Never use abrasive cleaning agents or glass window cleaners. A pressure washer may be used for cleaning large areas using the 'mist' setting.
Multiwall sheets feature a **UV-protected surface**, providing sun protection for pool occupants and reducing fading of outdoor furniture.

The sheet’s hollow structure offers **insulating qualities** that will help keep the air and water warmer. Depending on the climate you live in, you may be able to use your pool year-round.

Need help choosing the right glazing product for your pool enclosure? Call 888.602.4441 to speak with an A-Team member today.

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**About Thermoplastic Polymers**

**Did you know?**

*Polycarbonate is a THERMOPLASTIC POLYMER*

Polycarbonate resins are thermoplastic polymers - they can be heated to form a variety of shapes without losing their intrinsic characteristics.

Thermoplastics aren’t just used to make sheeting products; they are used in a wide variety of **transparent applications** to achieve the look of glass without the fragility or weight.

**Transparent products made of thermoplastic polymers**

- Prescription Lenses
- Smartphone Screens
- Drinkware
- Kitchen Appliances

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**Links of Interest**

- [High school sports complex uses polycarbonate panels to provide daylight on the courts without a high warming effect](#)
- [Increased use of daylighting and other sustainable practices are becoming more common as coronavirus transforms building design in Washington DC](#)
- [Corrugated polycarbonate sheets encase concrete and timber laboratory at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany](#)

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**Company Highlights**

**AmeriLux has acquired Shape Products**

AmeriLux International has acquired Shape Products, located in Menomonie, WI. Shape Products manufactures standard window wells, egress window wells, and window well covers. The acquisition was finalized on August 1st, 2020 and will add to AmeriLux’s focus on providing its customers with creative and cost-effective solutions.

“I’m a firm believer in the magic of momentum,” said AmeriLux CEO Kurt Voss. “The strategic acquisition of Shape Products continues our strong growth trajectory since starting from scratch in 2004. By integrating our teams and incorporating these products and services into
our existing portfolio, we can bring even more value to our customers and continue to build a sustainable enterprise.”

For two decades, Shape Products has set the bar in durability, aesthetics, and affordability in manufacturing the world’s largest and most dependable selection of window well covers. Shape Products is also a leading expert in thermoforming and compression molding. The acquisition expands AmeriLux International’s product offerings and further enforces the company’s win-win philosophy for all stakeholders.

Along with AmeriLux International’s additional transportation and logistics entities, the acquisition of Shape Products means AmeriLux will now employ 135 employees.

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**Meet the A-Team**

**Employee Spotlight | Brooke Benson**

After hearing what a wonderful company it was from a friend and old co-worker, Brooke decided to join the AmeriLux International Customer Relations Team this past fall. Her background experience includes customer service, account management, and sales.

As an Account Representative, Brooke manages the accounts for the ever-changing metal building market. Her responsibilities include taking calls, creating orders, processing quotes, answering installation inquiries, and assisting customers with anything else they may need. Brooke says she has always loved working with people, which is one reason she is enjoying this role so much.

Brooke said the most challenging aspect of her role so far has been learning the systems and the products. "However, I have a great team here who put a lot of time into my training and development," Brooke explained. "I now feel confident in my role and abilities to do my job effectively."

"My approach is to always listen, understand, and communicate honestly with the customer."

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**We Don't Drink Our Own Kool-Aid**

We know that our wins are not achieved alone, but with the help of all stakeholders in AmeriLux. We are grateful for and humbled by the dedication of our team members and the continued support of our investors, customers, vendors, and the community. Especially during these uncertain times, we extend a sincere thanks to all those who help our business thrive.

"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. We acknowledge that others help produce our wins, both inside and outside the company, and express our gratitude to them."