

# Multi-Wall Polycarbonate Install System Comparison

## Base & Cap System

**Colors:** Powder Coated White, Medium Bronze, Clear Stain Anodized  
(High Quality Paint AAMA 2604 - Anodize Class II - Both 10 yr. Warranty)

**Thickness:** Accepts 8, 10, 16 & 25mm polycarbonate.

**Bending:** Site bend. Minimum 8 ft. radius. Easy and fast installation.

**U-Profiles:** Snug fit, thin line, matching screws provided, vent tape Not required.

**Sealing:** No gaskets needed. Pressure of aluminum on poly creates exceptional seal.

**Expansion Noise Reduction:** Low cost, polycarbonate compatible foam tape.

**System Width:** 2" wide • Matches 2" tube • 1/4" inside exposed edge over 2x lumber.

**Cap Screw:** Pan head screw is exposed, but is color matched.

**Cost:** Low cost, about half the cost of Mega-Lock and similar to Triple-Clip.

## Mega-Lock System

**Colors:** White & Clear Anodized  
(Paint Finish, Anodizing Class & Warranty - Not Published by Polygal)

**Thickness:** Accepts 6, 8, 10 & 16mm polycarbonate, Not 25mm.

**Bending:** Machine or manual bend. Questionable ease & results. No min. published.

**U-Profiles:** Vent tape required, wide line, expensive.

**Sealing:** Gaskets required.

**Expansion Noise Reduction:** Expensive gaskets.

**System Width:** 2-3/8" wide.

**Cap Screw:** Concealed.

**Cost:** High cost.

## Triple-Clip System

**Colors:** Clear, Opal-Ice & Bronze Polycarbonate Cap • Mill Finish Base.  
(No Published Warranty on Cap - It may Yellow )

**Thickness:** 16mm Polygal 23" snap-in polycarbonate panel. Polygal only at replace.

**Bending:** No published statements.

**U-Profiles:** Vent tape required, wide line, expensive.

**Sealing:** Pressure of polycarbonate Cap creates questionable seal.

**Expansion Noise Reduction:** No published statements.

**System Width:** 3" Cap width.

**Cap Screw:** Not required. Snap-in Cap.

**Cost:** Joining system similar to Base & Cap, other than that no comparison.

## **Base & Cap System - No Gaskets Required**

**The seal between the Narrow Profile Cap and polycarbonate panel doesn't look weather tight. Why does water not enter without a gasket seal?**

Properly installed, the Narrow Profile Cap, of the Base & Cap System, provides an excellent seal, even on a 1/12 (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 Narrow Profile Cap is snugly installed, the pressure of the legs of the Cap causes the polycarbonate to give slightly, creating a watertight seal. Similar to the effect achieved with Tupperware, and its liquid holding ability.

One of the great advantages to polycarbonate is that gaskets are not required to achieve a watertight seal. Gasket systems can double the cost. More aluminum is required to provide a channel for the gaskets, then there is the cost of the gasket.

Also, the more parts of a glazing system, the more likelihood for leakage. Gaskets in glazing system caps will often shrink, creating a gap for water to enter. Because one sheet of polycarbonate runs from the ridge of a greenhouse, or skylight, to the overhanging eave, there are no horizontal joints, no impediments to water shedding off the glazing area, no water damming up, and consequently, leakage rarely occurs.

**Okay, what about the Base gasket?**

Base gaskets do not assist in achieving watertight integrity and being that polycarbonate is indestructible a cushion is not required. These gaskets will reduce expansion noise. We achieve this with, low cost, high quality, polycarbonate compatible polyurethane foam tape.

**Base & Cap Features & Benefits:** Cap Screw length accommodates thickness - 8, 10, 16 or 25mm, Colors - White and Medium Architectural Bronze Powder Coated & Clear Satin Anodized, all 10 year warranty, Strong - Spans over purlins and can handle typical loads. Clean Look - Narrow 2" wide profile, low height and thin line U-Profiles to terminate sheet - Low Cost, Strong, Watertight, Attractive and Versatile.

**U-Profile Watertight Seal:** The critical location, with the greatest potential for leaks is the lower end of roof sheets, at the eave, also described as lower edge of the slope. One must have the long leg of the U-Profile facing the sky and pin the U-Profile to the sheet every 8" on-center, as shown in the Eave Details, using the 3/8" self drilling screws provided free. This causes the polycarbonate to dimple slightly. Water hits the 1/64" leading edge of the U-Profile and cascades off the sheet. Should a slight amount of water make it past a joint of the U-Profiles it will drain out via 1/16" weep holes, drilled every 12". See Eave Detail Drawings. Also, no vent tape required, the U-Profile fits snug, but not too tight.