

Aluminum: The Future is Here

ALUMINUM PRODUCTION:

It is estimated that over 8% of the earth's crust contains bauxite ore, which is naturally rich in aluminum oxide ("alumina"). The world was aware of this as early as the Babylonian Empire but was unable to efficiently isolate aluminum. It was not until the late 1800's that an American scientist, Charles Martin Hall, discovered the process that changed the world:

Step 1: MINING

Bauxite is mined and gathered.

Step 2: REFINING

Bauxite is finely ground and mixed with lime and caustic soda which produces a sugar-like white powder called "alumina" (also known as aluminum oxide).

Step 3: SMELTING

The alumina is dissolved in a cryolite bath. During this molten state, a powerful electric current is passed through the bath and aluminum is separated from the chemical solution and powerful machines siphon off the aluminum.

Step 4: FABRICATING

Aluminum is placed into a furnace where it is melted down and mixed with other metals to produce customer specified alloys. These molten mixes are then poured into ingots which harden and then are shipped for further fabrication, such as extruding.

SUSTAINABLE & GREEN:

Aluminum is a fantastic building product for those concerned about sustainability. It is naturally plentiful and perpetually surviving. Moreover, aluminum rates very high in Life Cycle Assessment and leaves a small ecological footprint. All windows and doors eventually must be replaced but aluminum windows and doors last decades longer than wood and vinyl. Consider the impact on the world's landfills with all the

wood and vinyl waste. Additionally, imagine the wasted energy on redundant manufacturing of short-lived wood and vinyl windows and doors. **For more information about why Fleetwood products are a wise choice for the environmentally conscious homeowner, please see our Green & Sustainable document online at www.FleetwoodUSA.com, under the Designers menu.**

The "Little" Things

REAL QUALITY IS MORE THAN WHAT WE SEE. IT IS A COLLECTION OF REFINED COMPONENTS, OFTEN HIDDEN, THAT HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED INTO EXCELLENCE. Every Fleetwood product enjoys this pursuit of excellence and here are a few examples:

FINISH QUALITY:

Class I vs. Class II Anodize and Kynar vs. Polyester Paint

Cutting corners on the finish is the worst place to save money. Fleetwood uses a Class I anodize for all anodic finishes. Side by side, a Class II appears the same as our Class I but is not. In fact, Class I is nearly twice as thick as Class II. Additionally, Fleetwood uses Kynar 500™ quality paint, which is applied by certified applicators. In contrast, others might use a polyester base paint or save even more money by using powder coat.

ROLLER BEARINGS:

True Swiss Quality vs. Pseudo Precision

Most anything can be copied these days and sliding door rollers are no exception. Some manufacturers have upgraded from ball bearings to a sealed bearing and wrongfully claim it as precision. Only Fleetwood uses an authentic precision bearing from Switzerland in our premium door lines. Each bearing is carefully inserted into its wheel, using American labor and strict quality control. Sealed bearing rollers are certainly an upgrade to ball bearings and this is why our Entry Level sliding door Series 1000 (page 34) comes standard with them.



SLIDING DOOR HARDWARE:

Latch & Strike Plate

The standard hardware on all sliding doors is our own Archetype (see image above). All multi-slide doors over 96" in height come standard with two latches. The factory refers to this hardware as Archetype II and the standard single latch as Archetype I. This hardware dwarfs all others in the market because:

- Made in the USA
- Electro-Polished, 316 Stainless Steel
- Ergonomic Actuator & Indicator
- Laminated Hook Latch
- Boxed, Adjustable Strike Plate