

Bulletin: PolyCor™ AP - (Salt Brine/Salt Slurry Exposure)

Dear PolyCor™ AP Customer,

We would like to remind you that all PolyCor™ AP products come with a warranty against defects, provided the correct product and installation methods are utilized for specific projects.

However, it is important to note that exposure to road salt brine or salt slurry during the winter months, without prompt washing or rinsing of the trailer, may lead to chemical or corrosive damage to the aluminum skin of PolyCor™ AP. This type of neglect is not covered by the warranty.

Independent laboratory test results, following the Salt Spray Test ASTM B117-19, indicate that PolyCor™ AP not only passed but also exhibited no noticeable changes upon salt exposure. In comparison, standard aluminum showed signs of both blistering and white corrosion. Although PolyCor™ AP performs well in salt tests, the de-icing agents or chemicals added to salt mixtures can negatively affect aluminum and painted metal surfaces. These agents have evolved significantly over the past two decades, enhancing their effectiveness against snow and sleet, but also increasing their potential to damage metal surfaces.

Furthermore, we have observed instances of accelerated corrosive attacks on both PolyCor™ AP and standard aluminum panels due to electrochemical reactions or electrolysis. This issue often arises from improper or poor ground wire connections on the trailer or towing vehicle wiring harness. When combined with a trailer covered in salt brine or slurry, this can expedite the pitting and corrosion of aluminum panels through electrolysis. This is more common in Gloss Black due to the carbon black in black paint which is a necessary component to achieve the black pigment in the paint industry. Carbon is conductive and can enhance the electrolysis process as mentioned above if the proper ground is not established.

To protect your PolyCor™ AP trailer, especially if you drive in areas prone to wintry weather, we strongly recommend that you wash your trailer frequently, follow the cleaning guidelines provided by your dealer, and ensure that your trailer and tow hitch / harness are properly grounded.

Thank you for your attention to these important maintenance practices.

Sincerely,
Piedmont Plastics

