

Design Guide to Extruded Aluminum Canopies

Many factors influence the cost and usefulness of a walkway cover. Following the process outlined below will help to ensure an efficient system.

CHOOSE THE LIGHTEST AVAILABLE DECK SECTION

Deck accounts for roughly 60%-70% of the cost of materials in a typical extruded aluminum walkway cover. To minimize cost, always choose the lightest available deck section for the given loading conditions. If no minimum bent spacing requirements exists, choose 3" deck. For detailed information on deck selection please contact us directly.

SPACE BENTS AT THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE INTERVAL

After making the deck selection, set bent spacing equal to maximum allowable deck span. This allows full usage of the chosen deck section.

SET DECK WIDTH TO X'-6"

6" Deck sections are more economical per square foot than other sections. Setting deck width to X'-6" reduces material and labor costs.

SELECT THE MOST ECONOMICAL BENT STYLE AND SIZE

To achieve the least costly configuration always choose the smallest columns and beams.

MAINTAIN MINIMUM WIDTH/HEIGHT RATIO = 1.0

Tall, narrow walkway covers offer little protection from the elements. PPC recommends that the height of the walkway cover not exceed the width.

RUN DECK PARALLEL TO WALKWAY

The parallel layout will accomplish three things:

- Allow the use of rigid bents
- Fully utilize the long-span capability of deck
- Eliminate the need for expensive perimeter gutters.

CHOOSE APPROPRIATE FINISH

Selection of finish greatly affects the installed cost of the walkway cover. The painted Baked Enamel finishes in standard white or dark brown are the least costly. Clear Anodize and Dark Bronze Anodize finishes are the medium grade finishes. Finishes using fluoropolymer resin based paints such as Kynar, Hylar and Duranar are high end finishes which come in a wide array of colors. These premium finishes are the most costly available for walkway cover systems and the relates costs can vary greatly depending on the color selected.

INSIST ON AN ENGINEERED SYSTEM

The walkway cover must be designed to withstand all appropriate loads without failure in stress or deflection. Structural calculations, signed and sealed by a registered Professional Engineer are an essential part of a quality walkway cover.

ASK FOR ASSISTANCE

PPC is ready to provide expert guidance at any stage of the planning process. Call us direct at **(800) 341-3325** or [email us](#).