

# 8 Reasons Why Special-Lite® Products are the More Sustainable Choice



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Special-Lite understands that environmental responsibility begins with the product's ability to support a long life cycle of use and reuse. We fully recognize that manufacturing of any type places a strain on the environment. Making certain a product is capable of delivering long, useful life is an engineering and manufacturing priority of all Special-Lite Products.

Our thorough understanding and commitment to the environment ensures that we always take a comprehensive approach that considers materiality, longevity, health and safety, and energy efficiency.

## 1 GREENGUARD Certification ensures better indoor air quality.

Special-Lite's products were the first exterior products to earn GREENGUARD Certification, including the stringent Children & Schools Standard. The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) criteria are the toughest in the industry, involving tests for formaldehyde, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), phthalates and hundreds of other pollutant emissions using scientific environmental chamber protocols. GREENGUARD Certification is your independent assurance that no aspect of the materials we use or our method of construction will compromise indoor air quality (IAQ).



*Air Quality Sciences chamber testing verifies that Special-Lite products meet GREENGUARD Certification criteria.*



### **GREENGUARD GOLD Certified:**

#### **Doors**

SL-14, SL-15, SL-16, SL-17, SL-18, SL-19, SL-20, AF-100, AF-200, AF-217, AF-220

#### **Framing**

Aluminum & Fiberglass Door Frames, LiteSpace and Omega Frames



## 2 Modern materials and durable construction prolong service life.

Special-Lite® Doors are specifically engineered and manufactured to provide the longest possible service life, even in the most demanding and abusive applications. Corrosion-resistant materials and durable finishes ensure lasting beauty with minimal maintenance, to deliver the lowest possible life cycle cost.

The GREENGUARD INDOOR AIR QUALITY CERTIFIED Mark is a registered certification mark used under license through the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute. To view our GREENGUARD certificate online, visit [greenguard.org](http://greenguard.org).



### **3 Lightweight doors extend the life of the entire entrance system.**

Our design philosophy is unique in the industry. Contrary to conventional wisdom, we make our heavy-duty FRP/Aluminum Hybrid doors lightweight and flexible to withstand the rigors of real life, which also minimizes wear and tear on hardware and framing components. This approach results in the longest possible service life of the whole entrance system, thus conserving material, energy and economic resources.

### **4 Durable finishes reduce maintenance costs and health risks.**

The durability of Special-Lite's non-corroding materials and factory finishes eliminates the regular refinishing required to delay the decay of hollow metal or wood doors and frames. Not only are facility maintenance costs reduced, but maintenance staff and building occupants are not exposed to the airborne particulates, VOCs and irritating fumes created by sanding and refinishing.



### **5 Easy cleaning with green cleaners protects indoor air quality.**

Routine cleaning and stain removal can be a significant source of VOC emissions that degrade IAQ. The durable, easy-care factory finishes on Special-Lite doors not only stay new looking for years with only occasional cleaning, but even tough stains like graffiti can be removed using green cleaners, instead of toxic solvents.

## 6 Better thermal performance helps reduce energy usage.

The thermal efficiency of the building envelope has never been more important. Special-Lite's Fiberglass Doors can help reduce heating and cooling loads by providing superior thermal performance versus hollow metal doors. Compare our independent lab results with those for hollow metal doors, if you can find any. And don't be fooled by claims that equate the performance of the core material alone with the performance of a complete door, because they are not the same thing.

Thermal Properties:

Special-Lite® FRP Door Components, Panels, and Door Tests conducted by Architectural Testing, Inc.

U-value: rate of heat loss/gain (low better)

### Tested per ASHRAE Standard (the lower the score the better)

Product	Tested U-Value	ASHRAE U-Value Goal
SL-14 Door	0.63	0.77
SL-15 Door	0.63	0.77
SL-16, 1/2 lite, SL-600TB Framing	0.51	0.5
SL-17, SL-600TB Framing	0.31	0.5
SL-20, double lite kits, SL-600TB Framing	0.41	0.77

### Thermal Performance Tested

Product	U-Value
SL-17 Door, SL-450TB Framing	0.33
SL-20, SL-450TB Framing	0.33
AF-100 Door	0.13
AF-217/220 with honeycomb core Door	0.34
AF-217/220 with polystyrene core Door	0.18
SL-450TB Framing	0.32
SL-600TB Framing	0.33

*Detailed thermal test results are available upon request.*

## 7 Aluminum is a sustainable material choice.

At Special-Lite, we manufacture the major metal components of our entrance products from aluminum because its unique material properties make it a better choice than steel for exterior doors and framing. Its high strength-to-weight ratio, natural corrosion resistance, excellent workability, and ability to accept a wide range of finishes make it an excellent choice for architectural products.

Aluminum is also an excellent material choice for sustainable construction. It's the most abundant metallic element in the earth's crust, and can be infinitely recycled without degradation of properties. Aluminum's high scrap value and well-established recycling infrastructure make it the most frequently recycled metal, so much so that 73% of the aluminum ever produced is still in use today.



## 8 Special-Lite extrusions are made from reprocessed aluminum.

Special-Lite sources aluminum extrusions made from prime-equivalent billet which is produced from 100% reprocessed 6063-T6 alloy recovered from industrial processes. The extrusions produced from this prime-equivalent secondary billet are equal in all respects to those made from virgin material, but have a smaller environmental footprint. Aluminum recycling requires only 5% of the energy necessary to produce virgin aluminum, so our use of post-industrial reprocessed material helps to reduce the embodied energy inherent in our family of entrance products.

# Choose the Products with Longer Life . . . For Better Quality of Life

Exterior entrances as well as architectural products, such as Restroom Partitions and Interior Frames & Doors, make a lasting impression on everyone who passes through them. Because of either continuous exposure to the elements, heavy use, and/or abuse, entrance and product upkeep can be a disproportionately large contributor to facility maintenance costs and waste. Special-Lite products are specially designed to provide a higher level of performance, longer service life and reduced maintenance requirements, even in the most demanding applications. These attributes also make them the best choice for sustainability.





## **Special-Lite, Inc. Designs and Engineers Building Products that Enhance and Endure**

Since 1971, we've been providing commercial exterior entrance solutions, and building a reputation for engineering and manufacturing products that deliver the longest possible service life with very minimal maintenance. Our ability to combine innovative design, individual craftsmanship, and advanced technology with the highest quality materials have been at the core of our success.

### **Recycling our products**

Our aluminum framing and monumental doors are easily dis-assembled with hand tools and are fully recyclable after use. The fiberglass doors and urethane foam core material in our flush doors cannot be disassembled, and as such are not recyclable. These materials are essentially inert, so they can be safely disposed of at the end of their service life without adverse impacts on water, soil, or air quality.

**Contact your sales representative or Special-Lite for more information, including detailed independent lab test results, or visit [special-lite.com](http://special-lite.com).**



### **Special-Lite, Inc.**

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