



REPLACEMENT DOME RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☼ Change inner dome when changing outer dome for the following reasons:
 - Inner dome has crazing or extreme discoloration—crazing or stress cracks indicate the dome may be brittle.
 - Inner dome is more than seven years old—if something is able to break a brand new dome—it will probably break through both domes the next time it is impacted. (Impact resistance cannot be determined by size of hail alone because wind velocity often plays a big part.)
 - Inner dome is not easily separated from outer dome and/or frame—may end up breaking inner dome.
 - Purchasing a set of domes at the same time is cheaper than buying an outer dome and then an inner dome.
 - We cannot guarantee an exact fit when making outer domes only—especially on quick rise domes.
 - Quick rise domes when ordered as outers only sometimes will rub together and cause a loud popping noise. We have found putting a piece of gasket in-between the domes will raise the outer dome up a little bit and keep the quick rise part from rubbing. If raising up the dome, see note underlined below.
- ☼ If you buy a complete skylight and want to change the color of the outer dome—it is better to put a third dome over the existing outer dome rather than trying to separate the domes. When doing this on square or round skylights, turn the rail ¼ turn and lower the screws in the rail enough to clear the domes. If you try and screw into the plastic—it will break. Check and see where the screws need to be placed in the rail first. When doing this on rectangular skylights—turn the rail ½ a turn and follow the same instructions.
- ☼ Only use butyl or silicone caulking when changing replacement domes. Domes are most commonly made of acrylic and do not hold up well to chemical contact. Some sealants may contain ingredients that will break down the dome quicker than expected. Butyl comes in either tube or tape form. Plastic expands and contracts quite a bit, too, so any sealant that gets too hard may cause the domes to break themselves.
- ☼ Frequently, retaining rails have screws on the side of the rail and the rail is about 1 ½” wide. Providing a retaining rail measurement tells us a lot about the skylight, but if the screws are in the top of the rail or the rail is beveled, notched or wider than 1 ½-1 ¾” wide—we will need the actual dome measurement. (Flange width may be important, too.)
 - If the screws are in the top of the rail, we need the measurement that will make the dome fit inside the screws. Some people take the rail off and measure just inside the screws or submit actual dome measurement.
 - When given the rail measurement—finished product will be ½” smaller than measurements submitted. Actual measurements will be exact size submitted.
- ☼ When replacing both domes, it might be easier to cut through the sealant that is between the inner dome and frame before trying to take them off. Scrape off all the old caulking and do a dry fit before placing sealant on frame. Once you know they will fit and the rail easily goes back over them—place a bead/strip of either butyl or silicone on the frame where the bottom dome flange will be placed. Place sealant on the top of the inner flange to seal in-between the inner and outer domes. Put the rail back on and check to see if you need to re-align your screws on the rail to miss the domes. It is okay if the rail has extra holes in it—the design of the frame deflects water to the outside of the frame. See underlined note above.
- ☼ When replacing outer domes, it might be easier to cut through the caulking that is in-between the domes prior to taking outer dome off. Try and get as much of the old caulking off as you can without breaking the inner dome. Do a dry fit; make sure the retaining rail easily fits over the domes and check to see if you need to re-align your screws on the rail to miss the domes before putting new sealant in-between the domes as underlined above.
 - We suggest changing both domes for the reasons listed on the top of this page
- ☼ When cleaning plastic, only use warm soapy water and a soft cloth or paper towel. As with sealants—acrylic is easily damaged by chemicals—especially ammonia.
- ☼ New domes will not be the same color as older, oxidized domes. Keep this in mind especially on bronze domes. The clarity changes caused by oxidation make the domes darker. Brand new domes may seem too clear or too bright as compared to older domes. Custom colors are available, but are more expensive than standard bronze, white or clear domes. Polycarbonate colors are a slightly lighter shade than acrylic. Small, unavoidable imperfections in plastic are common, but do not affect the integrity of the plastic in any way, shape or form.
- ☼ White outer domes block ultra violet rays, bronze and clear do not.
- ☼ Quick rise domes come out from under the rail and come up almost 1” at almost a 90 degree angle. Gradual rise just slope up to a dome.
- ☼ **DO NOT SET REPLACEMENT DOMES ON ROOF SURFACE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT—WILL DAMAGE DOMES**

If you have any questions, concerns or comments—feel free to call or e-mail me.