

# PUT YOUR SWINGING DOOR PROBLEMS ON A ROLL

Find out how roll-up doors can help improve your operations.

BY KEN CZYZEWSKI

## At a Glance

Some benefits of roll-up doors include:

- Increased safety.
- Faster loading and unloading.
- Ease of installation and cleaning.
- Accommodation of hot and cold temperature extremes.

Roll-up doors keep personnel safe by allowing them to remain closer to the vehicle. In tight spaces, roll-up doors make loading and unloading easier and faster. Replacing swing-out doors with roll-up doors or specifying them on new truck bodies can improve operations while also providing greater safety, security, convenience, and durability.

They also eliminate damage associated with swing-out doors, both to surrounding objects and to the doors themselves, as well as preventing many injuries to personnel. Roll-up doors constructed of strong, double-

sided aluminum ribs are secure, more durable, and easier to repair if damaged. They provide a full view of the compartment, with easy access to equipment inside. Versatile for a broad range of applications, they are capable of operating in temperatures from below 40-degrees Fahrenheit to 180-degrees Fahrenheit.

## Design & Construction

High quality roll-up doors are constructed with ribs made of double-wall lightweight, anodized aluminum. One manufacturer's rib design incorporates a polyurethane seal that rests up against the following rib to

## 8 PROS OF ROLL-UP DOORS



1 ▲ Roll-up doors improve access, enhance appearance, and eliminate the hazards and inconvenience of swinging truck body doors.



2 ▼ Access is easier with a roll-up door, which requires less space than a swinging door.



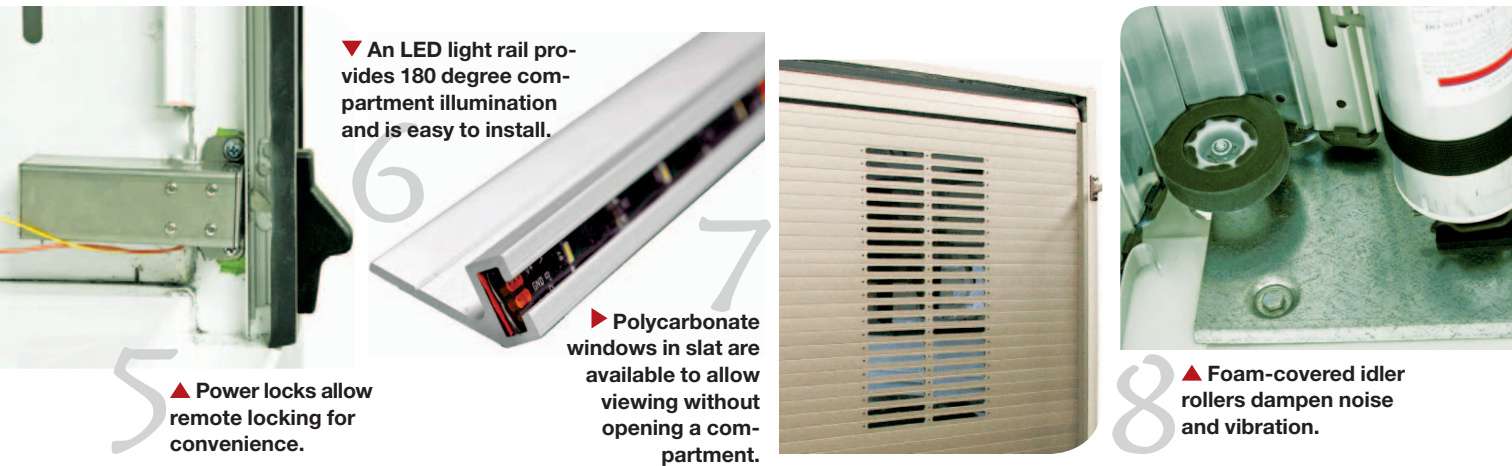
3 ▲ A neat appearance enhances equipment, while a stainless steel lift handle and lock make door operation easy.

4

▼ Extruded double-sided aluminum slats are easily replaced in case of damage. End caps are removable.



PHOTOS: KEN CZYZEWSKI



▲ Power locks allow remote locking for convenience.

▼ An LED light rail provides 180 degree compartment illumination and is easy to install.

► Polycarbonate windows in slat are available to allow viewing without opening a compartment.

▲ Foam-covered idler rollers dampen noise and vibration.

create a weather-tight seal when the door is closed. Spring-loaded operation makes the door easy to open and close. A three-inch diameter take-up roller allows for a small rolled-up size that provides maximum compartment storage. With foam-covered idler rollers, noise and vibration are dampened. A stainless steel lift bar provides additional bottom clearance for easy grip and operation of the door while also enhancing its appearance.

Roll-up doors are generally furnished with a standard high-quality satin anodized finish. Optional automotive-quality paint finishes with base and clear coat also can be specified to match the vehicle. Flexible polymer components, such as wipers and seals made of Santoprene, seal against water and offer high UV resistance. They also accommodate hot and cold temperature extremes and are easy to clean with mild detergents.

### Customizable for Most Requirements

Many options and accessories are available to tailor roll-up doors to specific applications. Here are a few of the choices:

- **Side-Rail Options.** Various choices of side-rail configuration make it easy to accommodate the structure of a truck body and equipment compartment.
- **Manual Key Locks.** Locks with standard key codes help keep contents secure. Heavy-duty locks are available for large doors.
- **Power Locks.** Compact power locks

provide added convenience and eliminate the need to use a key for frequent locking and unlocking. A manual override allows operation in case of power failure.

● **Door Ajar Switch.** A magnetic switch lets the operator know instantly if a door is not closed securely.

● **LED Compartment Lighting.** LED lighting provides high output and long life, with low amp draw, for work in low-light conditions. Light strips can be pre-installed on new doors or are easy to retrofit with side-rail mounting on existing doors.

● **See-Through Slats.** For interior or exterior compartments, slats can be provided with a rugged polycarbonate material to allow viewing without raising the door.

● **Inside Opening Lift Bar.** For large compartments or truck body doors, an inside lift bar provides added safety and convenience.

● **Pull Strap.** For tall doors, an optional pull strap adds convenience.

● **Drip Rails and Sill Plates.** Where the application requires, an optional top drip rail or sill plate can be provided by the door manufacturer.

### Easy to Order, Install & Repair

Ordering instructions available from the door manufacturer require mainly compartment measurements and some details on preferred mounting configuration and special features desired. Take-up rollers

can be positioned at the front or rear of the header above the compartment opening. In some cases, such as a truck body or large compartment door, a breadbox-style door may be used, with the roller mounted toward the rear of the area. The manufacturer can create custom solutions to fit specific applications based on standard designs.

Once the pre-drilled side rails and top rail are mounted to the compartment, the left and right pennant plates that hold the roller are installed. The roller and door unit are positioned and adjusted, including the handle assembly. Any accessory items such as lighted side rails and power locks are installed easily during the process as well.

If a door is damaged, replacement ribs can be ordered from the manufacturer and installed without replacing the entire door. Individually replaceable end caps make disassembly easy.

Whether roll-up doors are used on individual compartments, for full truck body access or even on trailers and other related equipment, they will be found to be convenient, safe, and durable. Their neat appearance will enhance the look of the equipment and the company and fleet's image as well. **WT**

### About the Author

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