FEATURE

CAST IRON VERSUS ALUMINUM

Five benefits of using aluminum pocket wheels

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Photos courtesy of Canimex

Door + Access Systems reached out to the experts at Canimex to learn more about the advantages of using aluminum pocket wheels. Their easy-to-read overview offers key installation tips for chain-hoist applications.

A hoist is a device used to raise and lower a garage door or a rolling door. The hoist's lifting power is secured by a pocket wheel wrapped in chain. The pulling of the chain creates leverage, which allows the door to be operated manually with minimal force.

Although many garage doors are controlled by a door operator, the chain hoist remains a popular option for applications with less frequently used doors.

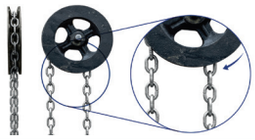
There are a few problems to be aware of when using a chain host. For example, the chain can sometimes jump or get stuck in the pocket wheel. While installing a quality chain is critical to the function of the hoist, it is not enough to prevent potential issues. The material of the pocket wheel can be equally important. Problems can occur when the pocket wheel is made of cast iron. No matter how flawlessly the cast-iron wheel is made, a simple burr can affect the space required for the chain to properly function.

Advantages of aluminum

Installing aluminum pocket wheels on hoist applications can be advantageous for many reasons, including:

ONE
Mold with precision:

The manufacturing process for aluminum pocket wheels ensures parts precision, repeatability, and accuracy; thus ensuring that the chain will not get stuck in the pocket wheel when in operation.



TWO
Fast production:

It is much faster to produce aluminum wheels compared to cast-iron wheels, which helps maintain a steady supply chain.

THREE
No corrosion:

Unlike a cast-iron pocket wheel, applying an anticorrosive coating is not necessary for aluminum pocket wheels.

FOUR
Lightweight:

An aluminum pocket wheel is lighter than its cast-iron counterpart because the material's density is lower. The weight difference reduces the shipping cost and streamlines the installation and handling processes — another valuable advantage.

FIVE
Optimal design:

The diecast aluminum pocket wheel can be manufactured in two parts with rivets. The unique rivet design eliminates pocket mismatch, makes a clean and well-defined look, and can simplify production.

About Canimex

Since 1988, the Canimex Torque Force Division has served as an OEM supplier that designs, manufactures, and supplies components to manufacturers of residential, commercial, and industrial sectional and rolling doors producers. Canimex was the first manufacturer to produce the diecast aluminum pocket wheel in two parts with rivets. ■