

General Information Bulletin

No. 3

Instructions for Applying Polyethylene Sheets as Weather Protection in Boxcars



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**Approved by
Management Committee**

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This information is provided for shippers and carriers at the direction of member railroads. The methods described herein have not been tested or evaluated for their effectiveness.

Instructions for Applying Polyethylene Sheets as Weather Protection in All Steel Boxcars

MATERIAL NEEDED PER CAR-

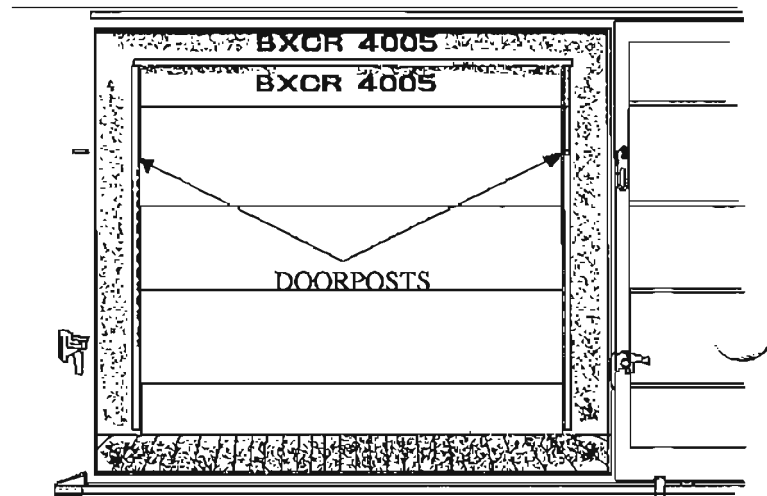
- 7 - pieces wood slats 3/8" x 1 5/8" x 11'0"
- 24 - Nylon Cable Ties 7 3/4" Long (purchase at Electrical Supply Stores)
- 1 - Roll of 12' 0" Wide Polyethylene
- 10 - 1 3/4" Nails - large flat head
- Staples and Staple Gun

OFF-LOADING DOOR-

1. Place a wood slat vertically on both sides of door along metal strips with slots (doorposts), to within 1" of the roof (Illus. No. 1).
2. Secure wood slats to car with nylon ties (Illus. No. 2).
3. Cut Polyethylene sheet a minimum of 8" longer than the distance between the two slats in step 1. Fold one edge of polyethylene sheet and staple to slat, on one side, starting at the top. Stretch the polyethylene sheet tight across the door and then fold and staple to the other vertical slat. Make polyethylene sheet tight enough so it will not sag below the top of the doorway (Illus. No. 3).
4. Fold the bottom of the polyethylene sheet around another slat and twist until tight. Nail this slat to slots in floor with 1 3/4" nails (Illus. No. 3).

**Illustration
No. 1**

**Doorposts Referred To
In Step Nos. 1 & 5.**



**Illustration
No. 2**

**Nylon Tie Hold-
ing Slat Into
Position at
Doorpost.**

Step Nos 2 & 5

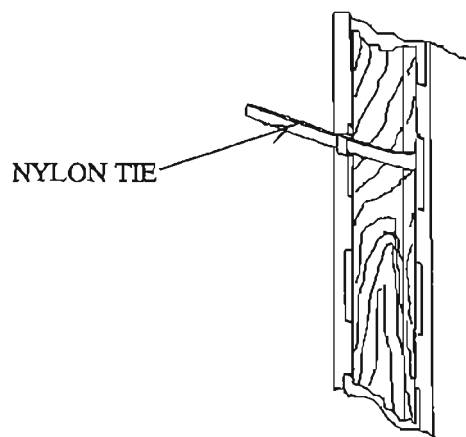
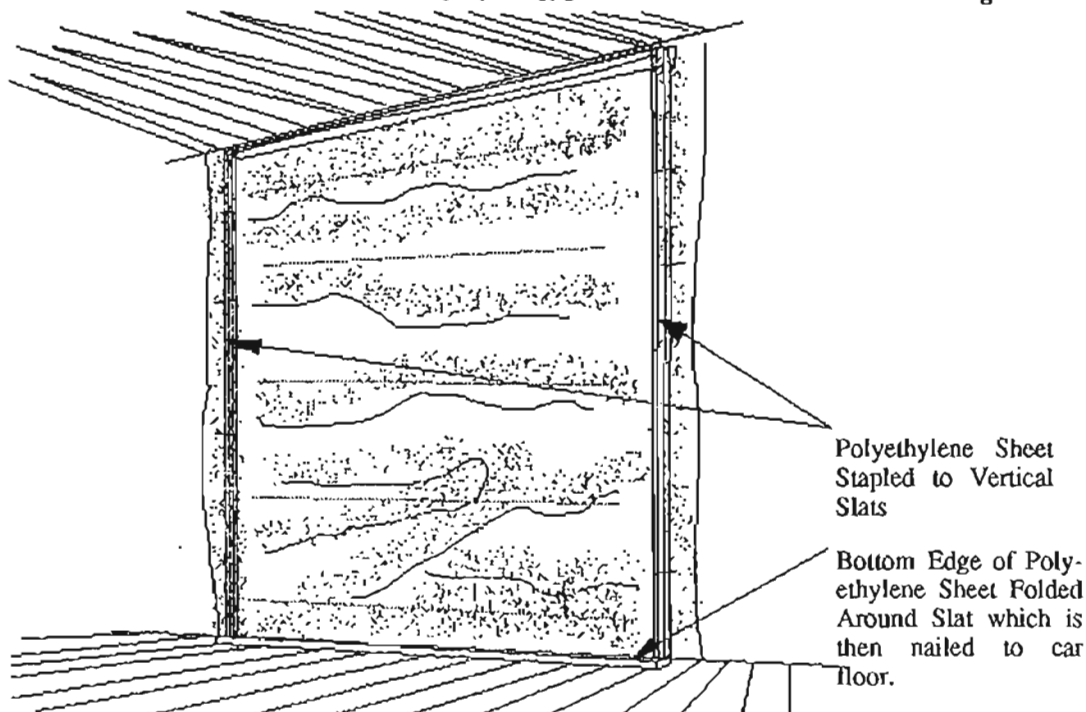


Illustration No. 3

Polyethylene Sheet Stapled to Vertical Slats With Slat Attached to Bottom Edge Nailed to Car Floor.

Step Nos. 3 & 4



LOADING DOOR-

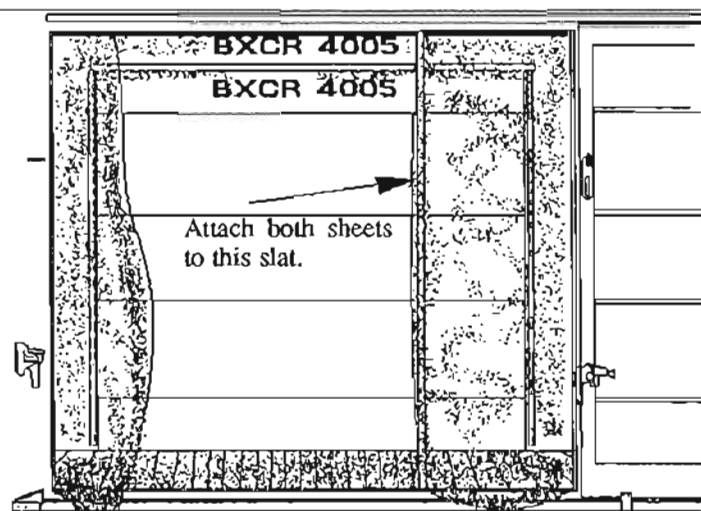
5. Apply wood slats on each side of this door in the same manner as in step No. 1 (Illus. No. 1).
6. Cut a sheet of polyethylene 1'6" longer than the distance between the two slats. Split this sheet in the center (full height of door).
7. Fold and staple each half of this polyethylene sheet to the slats on each side of the doorway, as in step No. 3. The polyethylene sheets can then be pushed to the side for loading of the car.
8. Load the railcar and secure the lading.

9. When loading is completed, staple end of the polyethylene sheets to a vertically positioned slat, starting at the top. Twist the slat to tighten the polyethylene and then staple to secure the sheets and slat tightly (approx. center of doorway) (Illus. Nos. 4 & 5).

Illustration No. 4

Split Polyethylene Sheet and Attach to Vertical Slat

Step No. 9



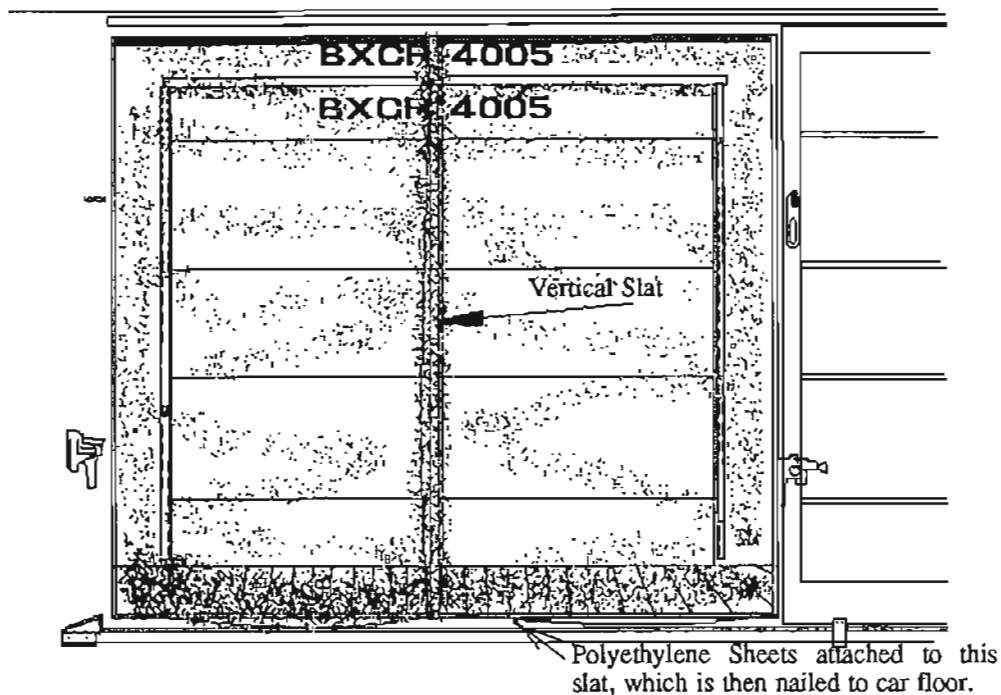
10. Fold bottom of the polyethylene sheets around another slat and twist till tight. Nail this slat to slots in floor with 1 3/4" nails (Illus. No. 5).

**Illustration
No. 5**

**Both Polyethylene
Sheets Attached to Ver-
tical Slat in Center of
Doorway.**

**Bottom edge of Sheets
attached to slat which is
then nailed to Car Floor.**

Step Nos. 9 & 10



ALTERNATIVES-

WOOD LINED CARS-

In wood lined cars it may be suitable to nail the vertical slats into position.

WOOD LINED AND ALL STEEL CARS-

An alternative means of securing the Polyethylene Sheets would be to use a spray adhesive. One member road recommends the use of 3M - #77 Super Glue in a spray can or comparable product. The adhesive is sprayed on the doorpost areas. The polyethylene sheeting is applied directly to the glue areas. Reportedly the glue can be used on either steel or wood and it has a cure range of -30° F to + 123° F. The glue must be applied in a heated area during cold weather, to allow spray cans to function properly. The bottom edge of the sheet may be left to hang out along the edge of the doorsill. When allowed to hang out of the doorsill be careful when closing the car door in order to make sure that the sheeting is not torn or snagged on the door when it is closed. The shipper may wish to secure the bottom edge of the sheet with glue or some other means as may be deemed adequate.

Note:

Additional Loading Publications are available from the Association of American Railroads. For additional information please contact us at the address shown on the cover.