

Ask the Expert

When is it best to use each type of steel grating option?

LCG can manufacture heavy-duty grating in virtually any material as long as it can be sourced from a mill, processor, or warehouse.

The most common material for our heavy-duty grating is conventional carbon steel, since carbon steel grades are versatile, durable, and economical.

Carbon steel can be used in most industrial applications, like loading docks, mezzanine flooring, sidewalks, and ramps. Carbon steel grating is available in three finishes: mill finish, painted black, or galvanized. If you go with the painted option, we use a water-based paint as required by Pennsylvania

Department of Transportation and the EPA. Carbon steel grating can be smooth or serrated for increased slip resistance.

Stainless steel is another option for heavy-duty grating. Like carbon steel, stainless steel grating can be either serrated or smooth, but it's only available in a mill finish. Because of its high strength and resistance to corrosion, stainless steel grating is best suited for harsh chemical environments. Stainless steel is incredibly durable and doesn't rust. On the other hand, galvanized carbon steel would break down in the presence of hazardous chemicals.

We also offer manganese steel grating in a mill finish. This special steel alloy is ideal for blast applications due to its high impact

strength and abrasion resistance. All of the steel LCG uses is recycled steel made from scrap. It is obtained, melted, and manufactured in the U.S. Larger pieces of scrap are saved for future projects, and the rest is scrapped for recycling back to the mills where it's melted and then resold.

Finally, we also fabricate A588 steel grating, or "weathering steel" it may be called, as it eliminates the need for painting because it forms a rust-like appearance after exposure to weather. This can be used in a variety of applications, including bridges.



Read more from LCG in the **September+October** issue, when Adams looks at how heavy-duty steel grating is manufactured.



Bill Adams
Sales Team Lead,
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Selecting the right materials for heavy-duty grating is important. Whether your project is in a high-traffic area or involves hazardous materials, heavy-duty steel grating can be customized to meet your standards. **Laurel Custom Grating (LCG)**, a leading manufacturer of steel grating, manufactures heavy-duty steel grating in carbon steel, stainless steel, and special steel alloys like manganese steel. **Bill Adams**, sales team lead at LCG, recently shared some advice for when to use each type of steel.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LAUREL CUSTOM GRATING



This grating has a galvanized finish to prevent rusting, plus wide spacing to allow for objects to pass through and not clog up the grate.