



The Great Debate: *Steel vs Aluminum*

By Mitchell Lance, Vice President of Sales and Marketing

When it comes to choosing a material for truck bodies, aluminum and steel are the two most common options. While both materials have their advantages, aluminum truck bodies have become increasingly popular in recent years due to their numerous benefits. In this article, we will explore the advantages of aluminum truck bodies over steel truck bodies and examine the sustainability of aluminum as a material choice.

Advantages of Aluminum Truck Bodies:

Lighter Weight

One of the most significant advantages of aluminum truck bodies over steel truck bodies is that aluminum is much lighter. Aluminum is approximately one-third the weight of steel, meaning that a truck body made of aluminum can be significantly lighter than one made of steel. This has several benefits, including improved fuel efficiency and reduced wear and tear on the truck's suspension system. With aluminum truck bodies, trucking companies can carry more cargo while using less fuel, resulting in significant cost savings.

Corrosion Resistance

Another significant advantage of aluminum truck bodies is that they are highly resistant to corrosion. Unlike steel, which is susceptible to rust and other forms of corrosion, aluminum is naturally resistant to such corrosion. This means that aluminum truck bodies can last much longer than steel truck bodies and require less maintenance. Additionally, aluminum truck bodies are less likely to develop holes or other damage from corrosion, which can compromise the integrity of the truck body and lead to costly repairs.

Higher Payload Capacity

Due to the lighter weight of aluminum truck bodies, trucks with aluminum bodies have a higher payload capacity than those with steel bodies. This means that companies can carry more cargo per trip, which can result in significant cost savings over time. Think about the number of times a technician for plumbing or HVAC has had to return to the shop for a part that couldn't be kept in the van or steel truck. Additionally, the increased payload capacity of aluminum truck bodies can allow companies to take on larger loads and expand their operations.

Better Appearance

Another advantage of aluminum truck bodies is that they have a sleeker and more modern appearance than steel truck bodies. Aluminum can be polished to a high shine, which can give trucks a more polished and professional look. Additionally, aluminum truck bodies can be painted or wrapped in graphics, which can help companies promote their brand and increase visibility.

Sustainability of Aluminum Truck Bodies:

In addition to their numerous advantages, aluminum truck bodies are also a sustainable choice for trucking companies. Here are a few reasons why:

Recyclability

Aluminum is highly recyclable, meaning that it can be melted down and reused again and again. This makes aluminum truck bodies a sustainable choice, as they can be recycled at the end of their useful life instead of being sent to a landfill.

Energy Efficiency

Producing aluminum requires less energy than producing steel, which makes aluminum a more energy-efficient choice. Additionally, using lighter weight aluminum truck bodies can improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions, further reducing the environmental impact of trucking operations.

Longevity

As previously mentioned, aluminum truck bodies are highly resistant to corrosion and can last much longer than steel truck bodies. This means that trucking companies can use their aluminum truck bodies for a longer period of time before needing to replace them, reducing the environmental impact of producing new truck bodies.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, aluminum truck bodies offer numerous advantages over steel truck bodies, including lighter weight, corrosion resistance, higher payload capacity, and better appearance. Additionally, aluminum truck bodies are a sustainable choice, as they are highly recyclable, energy-efficient, and long-lasting. For companies looking to improve their operations and reduce their environmental impact, aluminum truck bodies are an excellent choice.