



Super Wawa Convenience Store Gas Canopies

Various Locations on the East Coast



The Wawa convenience stores originated from a textile company in Millville, NJ in the 1800's. In 1964, the family-owned company opened their first food market and has since grown to more than 500 stores in five states. In recent expansions, the Wawa Corporation designed gasoline canopies for their new stores, which are known as "Super" Wawas. The owner preferred a bright white finish on the canopies, and originally specified a three-coat paint system. After several new stores were finished with the painted canopies, noticeable rust drips and staining were running down the columns due to breaches in the paint. The fabricator and owner discussed the problem, and the astronomical maintenance costs the canopies would require with the painted system, and decided it was necessary to change to a galvanized steel duplex system.

Because the structures were originally specified for paint only, the designers retrofitted the roof truss, column, and framing design to promote a quality hot-dip galvanized coating. Each canopy used 30 tons of steel; all galvanized and then painted bright white for appearance. The use of the duplex system will increase the service life of the steel up to 2.5 times that of galvanizing or painting alone.

Using a duplex system affords the steel the corrosion protection and durability of the galvanized coating and increased aesthetic possibilities by painting. Galvanizing prior to painting will eliminate the unsightly rust staining of a compromised paint coating. The duplex coating will protect the canopies from corrosion and reduce maintenance costs, so the popular convenience stores can continue to serve its loyal customers for generations to come.

Architect/Engineer/Designer
Eagle Erectors
Bear, DE

Specifier
Wawa Corporation

Painter
Colorworks Painting, Inc.

