

AGA GATE UPDATE 11/2010

Question of the Month:

Q: The AGA has so many technical resources that I sometimes get overwhelmed. Can you give me an outline to help me find the information I need?

A: The AGA has compiled technical data on hot-dip galvanizing and related corrosion topics over many years. This compilation is a wealth of information, but it can get overwhelming if you're not sure how best to wade through it.

If you're trying to answer a specific technical question, the best place to start is the AGA website, www.galvanizeit.org. Pick out a few key words that cover the topic you're interested in and do a quick search in the 'Search Our Site' box. For many topics you'll be presented with multiple options where you can get the information you need.

Searching the AGA website usually works very well when trying to locate a specific Dr. Galv article or when you are looking for case studies of how hot-dip galvanizing performs in various environments.

If you are looking for a specific AGA publication and cannot find it by doing a search on the AGA website, click on the "Education and Resources" tab on the AGA homepage, and along the left hand column you will see "AGA Publications"; click on that link. You'll see a list of all the AGA publications available for download or purchase in hard copy. For technical papers, such as *Galvanizing Notes* or *Galvanizing Guidelines*, you'll have to be logged in to the Members Only area of the website.

If you have taken the above steps, yet still can't find what you are looking for, it might be time to contact one of the experts in the AGA Technical Department. Talking to one of the experts is also a good choice when you have a very detailed question or customer-specific problem, such as design for galvanizing or performance in a specific chemical. The experts can be reached by phone at 720-554-0900 x21 and by e-mail at technical@galvanizeit.org and/or bduran@galvanizeit.org.

When you call one of the technical experts at the AGA, they will identify your exact problem (this may take a few questions to get to the real issue) and will then begin researching it, usually in the electronic library. This electronic library is not available in its entirety on the website simply because of its size (there are thousands of documents) and including it in the website would cause more confusion than help. However, as an AGA member, you can request any of the articles on various technical topics at any time. A full listing of the electronic library is available [here](#).

In addition to the electronic library, there is a physical library with even more technical documents. The physical library is useful when none of the other resources produce what you are looking for.

The methods above are the best solutions when you are trying to find answers to specific questions. If you are looking for general knowledge on galvanizing for your staff, the AGA has many courses and publications available for purchase. The most popular seminars

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the AGA offers include ThinkZinc (offered annually in March), Process seminars, and the Inspection Course. The Inspection Course can be taken online by both members and non-members and is free. The AGA Inspection Course can be presented in person to larger groups at a nominal cost. Visit the **Inspection Course** page for more information.

If all the technical resources above are not enough for you, soon you will have one more resource available called the AGA KnowledgeBase. This resource will soon be available on the AGA website and over time will cover most technical queries you come into contact through daily business or from your customers.

The AGA KnowledgeBase will be similar to Dr. Galv articles in that it will provide answers to specific technical questions, but will also have a comment section to request additional information you think should be included on that topic. If you provide information that is deemed useful, it will become part of the answer for that question. If you have additional questions, they will be addressed in the answer or a whole new thread might be started if your question is large enough to become its own topic.

The AGA Marketing and Technical Departments have tried to make technical information as accessible as possible with all of the above resources, but sometimes it can still be overwhelming because of how much information is available. Follow the steps above, by starting at the lowest level and then working your way up if you cannot find what you are looking for. Over a relatively short time period you will become familiar and comfortable with the many resources available as a member of the AGA. And when you cannot find what you are looking for, feel free to call one of the technical experts at the AGA.

Lastly, if you believe there is a technical resource that could make your job easier yet is unavailable, feel free to bring it to the AGA's attention by contacting the Technical Department at 720-554-0900 x21.