

## News and Updates

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of **The Observer** the official newsletter of **BENCHMARK**, where truly independent technical information from the outdoor and accelerated weathering and corrosion testing industry is found. We are not affiliated with any of the manufacturers of test equipment, or the commercial testing labs.

Benchmark is the name of our website, and is derived from the basis that “Florida outdoor weathering is the *Benchmark* by which all other weathering tests are compared.” You can find **BENCHMARK** at either of these URLs [www.bestweathertest.com](http://www.bestweathertest.com) or [www.bestcorrosiontest.com](http://www.bestcorrosiontest.com)

Our logo shown below, contains the images of the original surveying marks found on buildings in England that were made to indicate the height above sea level throughout the country. One horizontal chisel mark supported by three other chisel marks in the form of an arrow pointing to the first mark. You could find the height of the survey mark in a national register, then use that to determine the height of any other object, such as a building or a hill. This is the same way we use Florida outdoor results to compare all other weathering data. Every test, whether it is an outdoor test or an accelerated test is eventually compared to the Florida outdoors.



The Florida climate, and specifically the subtropical climate of South Florida, has been accepted as the gold standard since 1926. Original research by the University of Miami and General Motors determined that the climate in Miami was more harmful than elsewhere in the United States but that the type of degradation was the same but much faster.

### Independent Viewpoint

“I LIKE HAVING THE EXPERIENCED VIEWPOINT OF A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT EXPERT. WITH NO BIASES TOWARDS ANY SUPPLIER, I CAN TRUST PRETTY MUCH ALL OF IT TO BE THE HONEST TRUTH.”

We will do our best to keep our readers up to date on weathering and corrosion test methodology. Please check our “latest news” section on the home page for a current blog of noteworthy items. I will archive some of those more important updates in the newsletter. The newsletter will be published to the website every 3 months, and we’ll keep as many of the old ones up there as long as possible. The website is a bit bare at the moment, but I will be adding more content to the website on a regular and frequent schedule.

Check out the website for other things being offered. I can help with internal audits, standards application and implementation, technician training, new method development, and a number of other weathering and corrosion test help. I am a resource willing to share many years of experience, and unless it’s an extremely extensive program, I won’t be charging for it.

### Technical Information

Any new technical Information that has been added to the website can be found in the technical sections. We will be scouring the internet, talking to our contacts, going to the standards meeting, attending trade shows, to keep up with what is happening. Anything of interest, we will report on the website and record here. Things that might be of interest are new test equipment for lab weathering, cabinet corrosion testing, or gloss and color measurements.

### Standards Information

I will keep this section just for standards that have actually been published. Revisions that are underway will be reported on the website, and if you see something there and you want more information, or you would like to get involved in the revision work, then use the ASK A QUESTION feature on the website.

We have noted that several important standards have been revised recently.

#### **ASTM D714 Blister Rating**

Added a Precision and Bias section

#### **ASTM D3456 Outdoor Exposure Mildew Growth**

Updated many sections for clarity

#### **CRRC S-100 Standard**

Complete revision to allow Wall Products

### Tools

This portion of the website will be for Tools that are used in weathering or corrosion tests. These will be Excel spreadsheets typically and might be logsheets, quick reference guides, statistics templates, and pivot tables.

I started the section with a couple of spreadsheets I developed a long time back, but they still work today. Two statistics that are easy to use and apply to the majority of test results. They are described in more detail in ASTM G169 Guide for Basic Statistics.

One is the statistics used to compare means, known as the t Test is great for seeing if one specimen really is better than another. The other is a Rank Analysis which is great for proving if one test is equivalent to another

### Blog

I will have a Blog feed on the home page which will be called the **Latest Updates**. Since there is limited room and no-one goes back through those things, I will only have the last few entries available on the web page. The more important blog entries will be the backbone of our newsletter.

## CALENDAR

ASTM D01, G03  
January 25 to 27, 2025  
Houston, TX

FGIA Annual Conference  
February 17 to 20, 2025  
Orlando, FL

SAE Lighting Materials  
April 1 to 3, 2025  
Savannah, GA

ASTM D20  
April 7 to 9, 2025  
Toronto Canada

For more detailed information on any of these items please visit our website at [www.bestweathertest.com](http://www.bestweathertest.com)