Manufacturer

Arborite
385 Lafleur, Lasalle (Québec), H8R 3H7
Web site : www.arborite.com - Phone: 1-800-996-0366
Alternate manufacturing facility – Fletcher, NC

Handling and Storage

A few simple handling and storage procedures will minimize scratching and damaging of the decorative laminate during fabrication and installation.

Move laminate sheets or work by lifting - never by sliding - one sheet over another.

Keep the decorative faces clean. Use compressed air or a soft bristle brush to remove the debris - never use your hand, a cloth, or a stiff brush.

Protect the decorative faces (with cloth or corrugated cardboard) if the sheets or assemblies are inverted to work on the back side.

Use a protective cover (cloth or corrugated cardboard) under tools and other objects placed on the decorative face.

Conditioning Materials

Preconditioning the components (laminate, substrate, and adhesive) prior to fabrication is essential to prevent warping, swelling, shrinkage, and delaminating problems.

This is done by opening up the materials to a conditioning environment of 23°C (73°F) and relative humidity between 45% to 55%, for at least 72 hours, until they reach moisture and temperature equilibrium.

Decorative laminates to be installed in areas where humidity is low will require special conditioning and an exceptionally good bond to the substrate.

Shop Fabrication

Shop fabrication of decorative laminate is preferred, because:

- Specialized equipment and familiarity with fabrication practices can produce better results, tighter joints and more positive, trouble free glue lines.
- Many different types of adhesives are available. The adhesive most suitable for the particular conditions can be used (see the section Adhesive Selections).
- Samples of workmanship can be judged before work commences.
- Shop conditions (humidity, temperature, cleanliness) are usually more suitable for fabrication than site conditions.

Site Fabrication

Site bonding or fabrication of decorative laminates can be done provided the following precautions are taken.

Working conditions should be similar to those required for finished carpentry work (warm, clean, moderate humidity). Lay open the cases of material for at least 48 hours prior to fabrication, until they reach moisture and temperature equilibrium at a temperature of 21°C - 24°C (70°F - 75°C) and a relative humidity of 45% - 55%.

Employ shop fabrication practices for finishing, using proper tools.

The substrate for adhesive applied laminate should provide full support, and be free from twist or warp. It is important that all surfaces to be bonded are clean, dry and free of dust, oil and other foreign matter.

Common Defects of Site Applied Laminates

