

FILM, MDO & MESH FACED PLYWOOD USER GUIDE



In order for film, MDO & mesh faced plywood to perform satisfactorily in use, it is important that the following guidance is followed before, during and after installation:

1. Plywood of all types must be stored horizontally on a level surface, supported from the floor on bearers. A 2440 x 1220 panel must be supported on at least three bearers, oriented in the 1220mm direction. 3050mm panels require an additional bearer. The storage location should be clean and dry, well away from heat sources and, if possible, out of direct sunlight.
2. Once transit strapping has been removed, further movement by mechanical handling will be extremely hazardous because the boards are slippery. Risk assessments should be appropriate for this hazard.
3. Concrete Formwork. Film faced and MDO (Medium Density Overlay) plywoods are suitable for concrete formwork. The main points to remember are;
 - a. All cut edges and tie-bolt holes must be sealed with 2 coats of a water resistant paint.
 - b. Apply a suitable filler or mastic between panels to minimise grout loss.
 - c. All exposed holes in the face must be filled and receive 2 coats of exterior quality paint before pouring. Acrylic paints have been found to be flexible and accommodate expansion and contraction in the panel.
 - d. Nails and screw heads must be countersunk and sealed.
 - e. Suitable release oil must be applied to the face of the form before first use to ensure cleaner striking of the forms and more reuses. Release oil may need to be reapplied before subsequent uses.
 - f. Forms must be cleaned and re-oiled immediately after striking. On no account should concrete residues be allowed to dry on the form.
 - g. Used forms must be stored away from direct sunlight to avoid cracking the surface.
 - h. Small surface repairs can be achieved with epoxy filler but, depending on the quality of the desired result, damaged panels may have to be discarded.
4. Use as a Flooring Panel. Mesh faced plywood offers a slip resistant surface that lends itself well to safe walking surfaces. Typical applications include duckboards, access ramps and raised access platforms, commercial vehicle decking and temporary walkways. It is not suitable for permanent use as external decking. Applications listed above need attention to detail to obtain the optimum working life:
 - a. In all applications, the panels require adequate support with due regard to the purpose intended.
 - b. All cut edges must be sealed with 2 coats of exterior quality paint before final fixing.
 - c. An expansion gap of at least 3mm must be left between adjacent board edges and surfaces.
 - d. Panels should be screwed (or bolted) into position but not nailed.
 - e. Pilot holes are essential for all screw (or bolt) fixings and must be of a diameter compatible with the shank of the screws (bolt). The shank must not be dead tight but allow a small clearance for movement and space for sealant as referred to in (f) below.
 - f. Screw holes must be completely filled with a good quality non-hardening silicon sealant before final insertion of screws.
 - g. All flooring uses are safety critical and necessarily require regular inspection and maintenance.
5. Use as a Rebound Board. The product is not sold as suitable for rebound panels. Please seek appropriate advice.

All paint, oil or sealant referred to above must be applied in accordance with manufacturers' instructions. Unless the above guidance is closely adhered to, the supplier may disclaim liability in the event of performance or product failure relating to post-installation product movement or deterioration.

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