Finishing Guidelines

Highly Moisture Resistant Medex MDF panels have a fine surface that takes paint, vinyl and other high-tech decorative surfaces exceptionally well and when properly sealed, provide you with a versatile substrate for your signage needs.

For best results, the characteristics of Medex must be given serious consideration and properly incorporated into the design of the end product. To ensure the best results, follow these step-by-step finishing instructions.

These guidelines are intended for utilizing Medex in external applications.

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Finishing Steps
Routing
Sanding
Sealing
Priming
Top Coating
Mounting
Fasteners

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Finishing Guidelines

Routing 1

Radius or rout all 90 degree edges to a minimum 3/16" radius in order to improve paint film buildup over this area.

Sanding 2

Sand all edges and/or machined areas to reduce the amount of raised wood fibers which prevent proper sealing on the unsanded surfaces.

Seal Coat 3

This seal coat is for all edges and those areas where the lower density core area is exposed. Sand lightly after drying.

PRODUCTS TO USE
a) 2-part epoxy
b) Solvent based polyurethanes

NOTE: Lumber (e.g. deck) sealers are not recommended.

Prime Coat (all surfaces) 4

Use a solvent-based prime coat to a minimum 1.5 mils dry film build. Latex prime or top coats NOT RECOMMENDED.

NOTE: A prime coat is not a substitute for sealing or topcoating.

Top Coat (all surfaces) 5

Dry film build of top coat - minimum 2.5 mils.

IMPORTANT: Automotive type paints are not to be used unless the sign has already been sealed as described.

Reminder: All paints will draw away from a sharp edge or corner, regardless of what is being painted: metal, plastic, lumber, plywood and Medex. Because the paint is very thin on this area, any expansion and contraction resulting from ambient changes will cause the paint to crack.
**Mounting**

With the potential for lineal expansion over the life of the sign, mounting holes should be made oversized. Fill excess area with silicone and cap with a washer large enough to cover the area. Do not tighten so that washer is pulled through the paint.

Do not use wood screws or nails to attach edge capping to Medex.

**Screws to use:**
- **DECK SCREW**
  - Drill pilot hole at 85-90% of the root diameter of the selected screw.
  - Apply bead of silicone in counter sink area to seal hole.

**NOTE:** Drill hole 1/16” deeper than length of screw. Lag bolts are not recommended.

**Edge Protection**

When attaching edge protection to Medex do not penetrate the edge. Use silicone to attach any edge cap to the perimeter of the sign.

When butt-fitting Medex, always coat adjoining edges with silicone after finishing steps have been completed.

Moisture will form a drip-line on the bottom of vertical panels. Be sure to seal bottom edges to prevent moisture absorption.

Do not flush mount to any wall. There should be a minimum of 1/4” spacing using furring strips or galvanized washers.

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**Frame-Mounted Signs**

Frame-mounted signs must be vented on sides and bottom for moisture drainage and evaporation.

Enclosed-type signs must be vented (2 sides) to prevent humidity/moisture buildup on the inside.

**NOTE:** Medex must be sealed on all sides in this type of application.

Framed perimeter signs must be sealed with silicone caulk where the panel meets the frame.

**Post Mounting**

Medex must be supported at both ends with at least 24” between the sign bottom and the ground. Do not mount where there will be direct contact with water from ground or irrigation systems.

Because Medex is a non-structural panel, do not use cantilevered mounting. Minimum height above ground – 24”.

For hanging signs, use a clevis and pin attachment. Do not use mounting bolts into the edge.
Limited Warranty Provided to Distributors as Follows:

SierraPine warrants to the distributor or original equipment manufacturer (collectively "Distributor"), that as of the date of shipment, the product shipped is free of defects in materials and workmanship. Any product found to be defective by the distributor (and so noted to SierraPine in writing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the shipment) will be repaired or replaced by SierraPine. The repair or replacement of these products is in lieu of all liabilities or obligations of SierraPine for damages, including consequential damages, in connection with the sale or use of these products. This warranty constitutes the sole and entire warranty pertaining to these products. SierraPine makes no other warranty, guarantee or representation of any kind whatsoever. All other warranties, including but not limited to, merchantability and fitness for purpose, whether express or implied, are hereby disclaimed. All warranty claims are void if the thickness of the panel is materially modified from the original thickness at time of shipment.

limitations

Medex is not suitable for structural applications.

- No average value of a single panel in a multi-panel sampling shall be more than ten percent out of compliance with the requirement in ANSI A208.2.
- Awarded CARB NAF Exemption due to formaldehyde-free adhesive system. The listed emissions are due to formaldehyde naturally present in all wood fiber.
- Stock panel size is 49" x 97" in thicknesses of 3/8" - 1+1/4". Custom sizes (up to 5' x 18' and cut-to-size are also available. Non-stock items may be subject to mill run and/or minimum order quantities. Please ask your Roseburg sales representative.
- The word "exterior" as used in this context indicates compliance with ASTM D1037 six-cycle accelerated aging test.
- Medex will readily accept most exterior coatings formulated for application over wood and wood products. A minimum prime coat film thickness of 1.5 mils (dry) is recommended for exterior applications. Topcoats used over properly primed Medex should be applied to achieve a dry film build of 2.5 to 3.0 mils, creating a total dry film build through the sign face of 4.0 to 4.5 mils.

NOTE: This information applies when Medex is used in external applications only.

- Wood, wood products and many paints are susceptible to degradation from fungal growth and ultraviolet radiation. Many commercially available primers contain an antifungal ingredient. If your prime coat does not contain such an ingredient, it is recommended that one be included. Translucent and clear primers generally offer unsatisfactory protection against ultraviolet radiation.

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