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# PRODUCT NEWS

HELPING WITH QUALITY PRODUCTS, SERVICE & THE LATEST IN PRODUCT INFORMATION

## **The Benefits of using Trespa™ Solid Composite Phenolic Panels For Interior applications**

The following are benefits of using Trespa panels for interior wall panels, casework, countertops, toilet partitions and lockers.

- 1. Graffiti Resistant & Easy to Clean** – Commonly used cleaning agents are soap, light acid cleaning agents and solvents. Grease, cooking fat and grimy dust can be cleaned with a soap solution. Fresh cement can be cleaned with diluted hydrochloric acid. Most paints and adhesives can be cleaned with organic solvents (paint thinners). Permanent markers can be removed with acetone. It is recommended to rinse the panels thoroughly with clean water after using solvents and cleaning agents.
- 2. Extremely Impact Resistant** – Trespa panels have been used in Sports Parks, and in Child-Services Detention Facilities where they are subject to extreme abuse, and in several Airports where baggage carts bang into the panels each day, and show no signs of the impacts.
- 3. Design Flexibility** - The panels come in hundreds of colors and texture options, and with wall panel systems, there are several fastener options as well as corner and joint options. Panels can be cut into any shape and size up to a maximum of 7' x 14'.
- 4. Environmentally Sustainable** – 30 % of all Trespa panels use are made from phenolic resin and 70% is from wood fibers from ground up from the scrap wood chips from trees grown on controlled tree farms. Some of the phenolic resin used in all Trespa panels is Post-Industrial Waste which Trespa purchases from companies that use phenolic in the manufacture of music CD's, and computer chips. Use of Trespa panels contribute to several LEED credits.
- 5. Indoor Air Quality** – Trespa is certified to have Zero Off-Gassing. Trespa does not contain urea-formaldehyde. This is unique and one reason why Trespa is used for interior casework, countertops and other typical interior cabinet applications, since most materials used in casework have formaldehyde off-gassing. Trespa is certified by the Greenguard for Children & Schools product certification program.
- 6. Non-Porous and Bacteria Resistant** – The surface is extremely non-porous and will not support microorganic growth, plus the edges do not need to be treated or sealed, as they will not absorb moisture and are warranted not to delaminate.
- 7. Chemical Resistant** – Resistance to extreme chemicals and solvents in chemistry labs are typical reasons why so many Bio-Tech and Chemical firms use Trespa panels. A list of common lab chemicals that have been tested with both TopLab and Athlon panels is available.

**W. H. Steele Co. Manufacturers Representatives  
Celebrating 100 Years of Service 1907-2007**

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8. **Code Compliance** – All Trespa panels are U.L. Fire Rated. All interior panels 5/8”, 3/4” and 1” thick are always Class A Fire Rated, and thinner panels are at a minimum Class B rated, but can be ordered in Class A Fire Rating.
9. **Easy to work with** - The panels cut like a dense hardwood, and use the same carbide blades and bits that most carpentry shops use on hardwoods. No moisture treatment or sealing is required on edges or holes drilled. The panels are denser than hardwoods and take more time to drill, but use the same tools. No edge banding is required, but it is recommended to ease the sharp edges and use a router to clean the saw-cut marks on the edges.
10. **Challenges to working with Trespa** – With the several advantages to using Trespa panels, there are applications where using Trespa may not be appropriate:
  - a. Trespa does not bend easily, and it is not recommended to bend the 3/8” panels more than a 20’ radius. If bending the panel is part of the design, we have recommendations and guidelines to make the installation look and perform well.
  - b. Also, the density of Trespa makes the panels heavy, so if weight is a factor in the design, please consult our Panels sizes and Weights Chart. A typical 3/8” thick panel weighs 3.0 lbs per sq.ft.
  - c. If the installation is in an area where typical vandalism is more than graffiti, and individuals have plenty of time to carve in the panels, then the panel will scratch. Trespa does not scratch as easily as stainless steel or real wood, because the density of the material makes it more resistant, but if a sharp knife is pressed hard into the surface, it will scratch. Trespa does provide touch-up paint, primarily for fabrication errors, and these epoxy paints can be used to mask scratches.
11. **Advantages of Trespa panels over other interior panel options** – When comparing Trespa panels with other panel manufacturers, there are several areas to compare beyond appearance:
  - a. Trespa can be fabricated by any commercial cabinet shop, but we have a network of Trained and Experienced Fabricators that we can recommend for any application (interior wall panels, countertops, cabinets, lockers, and toilet partitions). Installing Trespa panels are fairly quick and easy compared to epoxy, Corian-type panels, and stone panels.
  - b. Trespa panels do not crack when screws are installed too tight, and Trespa shelves and countertops carry a very heavy load before deflecting. A chart showing test results from load deflection is available upon request.
  - c. Trespa panels will not delaminate, and never have moisture caused staining at hole cut-outs and edges as do panels with plastic-laminates or real wood panels.
  - d. Trespa panels are all U.L. Fire Rated, as noted earlier.
  - e. Trespa panels are easily replaced when damaged or when a remodel requires moving countertops. With epoxy tops, the top is usually trashed as it breaks when removed. Trespa countertops can be moved, trimmed, and reinstalled.
  - f. Trespa interior wall panels do not dent or “oil-can”.
  - g. Trespa offers a much larger variety of colors and textures than any other panel manufacturer.
  - h. Trespa offers a 10 year warrantee against delamination, warpage and on color fastness.