



*w.h. steele*

# PRODUCT NEWS

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## The Benefits of using Trespa Meteon®

### High Performance Solid Composite Phenolic Panels for Exterior Façade Systems

- 1. Graffiti Resistant & Easy to Clean** – Commonly used cleaning agents are soap, natural citrus cleaners, 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. Extreme cases of acid rain have no effect on the Meteon surface.
- 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. U.V. Stable and Color Fast in Direct Sunlight** – The surface of the Trespa Meteon, Virtuon and TopLab Plus panels have a unique in-house technology, Electron-Beam-Cured surface that makes the surface extremely chemical resistant and non-porous, and this is what makes the panels so resistant to Ultra-Violet rays. The Meteon panels are warranted for 10 years to show no detectable color fade. So the building will look fresh and new for many years, eliminating additional maintenance costs.
- 4. Ventilated Rain Screen Design Keeps Building Drier** – For over 60 years the Back-Ventilated-Rain-Screen design has been proven to keep buildings drier by providing a secondary layer of protection for the primary building wall.
- 5. Façade System Design Reduces H.V.A.C. Load** – The secondary layer of the Meteon façade absorbs the heat of the sun, and this heat is then exhausted up the air-cavity behind the panels, where cold air enters the cavity from the vent screen at the bottom of the panels. This “chimney-effect” keeps the heat off the primary “structural” wall during the summer. The reverse effect occurs during the winter, when wind and snow hit the outer façade, and the air-cavity behind the panels again protects the structural wall.
- 6. Design Flexibility** - Trespa panels come in hundreds of colors and texture options, several fastener options as well as multiple corner and joint details. Panels can be cut into any shape and size up to a maximum of 7' x 14'. With Exterior Façade Systems, a 3/8" open joint is common, but some projects use larger joints for a design impact, and in some high traffic areas, the panel joints 10' and lower are closed with black joint closure trim.
- 7. Code Compliance** – as an exterior facade Systems, Trespa has received the necessary approval and testing certifications required for University, Medical and Commercial Building projects. Meteon panels are U.L. Class A fire rated. The Meteon system may be used as a façade on non-combustible buildings. The Meteon System has been approved by the California State Fire Marshall, on scores of projects, with similar testing for Chicago, State of Florida, and New York MEA, and other special criteria testing like the Dade County, Florida High Wind Testing.

8. **Indoor Air Quality** –Trespa is certified by GreenGuard®, and the GreenGuard for Children & Schools™ product certification program and contains no added urea formaldehyde.
9. **Easy to work with** - Even though most panels arrive on the jobsite after being cut on CNC machines, some panels need to be cut in the field. Fortunately, Trespa 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 where holes are 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, & it is not recommended to bend the panels more than a 20' radius. If bending the panel is part of the design, Trespa has 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 panels 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 Façade options** – When comparing Trespa panels with other panel manufacturers, there are several areas to compare beyond appearance:
  - a. Trespa panels are provided with a “Systems” approach, so they include the shop drawings based upon testing of the system, which includes the vertical channels and panel fasteners, spaced to proper widths no prevent any panel “oil-canning”. The system design includes screw pull-out for 25 psf wind-loads, and can be re-designed for areas with higher loads. Many façade panels are provided with no façade design guidelines, and no code certification.
  - b. Trespa has a network of trained and Authorized Meteon Installers (ATM's) that install the system. Installing Meteon panels is fairly quick and easy compared to many other panel types.
  - c. Trespa also has qualified and trained Certified Trespa Meteon fabricators (CTM's) who have considerable experience with various panel systems and can handle almost any challenge. These CTM's are strategically located across the country and offer another level of ability unmatched by competing panel manufacturers.
  - d. Trespa panels do not crack when screws are installed too tight, and Meteon panels do not require a rubber gasket behind the furring strips as cement panels do.
  - e. Trespa panels will not delaminate, and moisture will not cause staining at fasteners and edges as do panels that have real wood laminated over a phenolic core.
  - f. Trespa Meteon panels are all U.L. Fire Rated, Class A, and can be used as a façade over non-combustible building walls, which many other panels are not.
  - g. Trespa panels are easily replaced in any location of the façade, as in instances when panels have been damaged by gun-shots or driven into by cars.
  - h. Trespa panels do not dent or “oil-can”, as do most aluminum and metal panels.
  - i. Trespa offers a much larger variety of colors and textures than any other façade panel manufacturer.
  - j. Trespa offers design and detail assistance, and regular jobsite visits to make sure installation is done correctly.
  - k. Trespa offers a 10 year warrantee against delamination, warpage and color fastness.