



ACCEPTABLE FABRICS FACT SHEET

Application Method

RPG® fabric finishes are stretch applied over the face of the core, then bonded to the edges and returned and bonded a minimum of 1" (25 mm) onto the back side of the panel to minimize telegraphing of core irregularities.

Acceptability Issues

DIMENSIONAL STABILITY (ASTM D6207-03): This test method determines the dimensional stability of fabrics intended for use on panel and screen systems to cycled changes in humidity and temperature. Polyester, modacrylic, olefin, polyolefin, polypropylene, and blends using these fabrics as base materials are the most stable. Although any choice of fabric should be tested for dimensional stability, fabrics containing nylon, rayon, and silk are less likely to remain stable. An acrylic or latex backing will not stabilize an otherwise dimensionally unstable fabric.

ACOUSTICAL TRANSPARENCY: The ability of sound to pass through the fabric and enter the sound absorptive panel core. If air passes easily through the fabric, it will have good acoustical transparency. Typically, acceptable fabrics will have an open weave. An example of an acceptable panel fabric is Guilford FR701-2100. Fabrics with backing generally have poor acoustical transparency, and micro-perforation is often not a solution since the holes may close over time.

TELEGRAPHING: This refers to surface irregularities of the core or surface template telegraphing through the fabric. RPG® stretch applies all fabrics to minimize this effect, but each custom fabric must be tested. Also, certain light-colored fabrics will reveal the surface, and in these situations, RPG applies an acoustically transparent scrim on the core before fabric application.

ADHESIVE COMPATIBILITY: This refers to the ability of the adhesive RPG® uses to bond to the fabric and not bleed through and discolor the fabric.

MISCELLANEOUS: Certain fabrics exhibit visible lines when stretch applied over the panel face due to different light reflectivity in the areas under different tensions. Certain humidity conditions and humidity changes from 80% to 60% may cause fire retardant salts to precipitate and leave a white power mark.

PROCEDURE FOR CUSTOM FABRICS: Many fabric manufacturers and thousands of fabric choices are available. Unfortunately, not all fabrics are suitable. All custom fabrics specified must be tested by RPG to determine if any potential problems may require the designer to consider a different fabric. At the order quotation stage, RPG® requires one linear yard of specified fabric shipped to RPG® for evaluation. RPG® cannot guarantee that selected fabrics will remain bubble-free or sag-free if testing reveals a specified fabric is unsuitable for application to our products.

Note: We cannot accept responsibility for products not used or installed to our specifications. Only handle panels wearing clean, white gloves during installation.



GUIDANCE ON RECEIVING AND HANDLING FABRIC-WRAPPED PRODUCTS

- 1) Packaging of the panels will vary from project to project based on the nature of the order, the distance from the factory and any unique conditions we are aware of at the delivery site.
- 2) Be prepared to handle, open and dispose of cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, wooden crates, strapping, wrapping and fill materials required for a successful transit to the site. Recommended tools include a screw gun with #2 Phillips bit, wire snips, a utility knife (care needs to be taken not to damage products within the packaging), work gloves and eye protection.
- 3) STORAGE – if the product needs to be stored for any period before installation, it is best to leave them in their original packing. Please refer to each product’s warranty for requirements, specifically the environmental requirements. The warranty begins upon receipt of the panels, not from the time of the installation. For the warranty to be valid, certified environmental data (temperature and humidity readings - morning/day/night) for every day in storage is mandatory.
- 4) Take care when unpacking the panels from the boxes or crates. You should not have to push or pull hard to remove them. Make sure the containers are fully opened without obstruction for easy and gentle access.
- 5) As you set panels aside from unpacking, place them carefully and keep them face-to-face/back-to-back to prevent any exposed fiberglass or potential debris at the rear of the panel from getting on the fabric panel faces or sides.
- 6) Stacking – do not stack the panels differently than they arrived, and do not lean the panels at an angle against the wall; they should be kept safe and flat until installed on a flat wall or ceiling.
- 7) The panels should be covered with a light plastic drop cloth to protect them from site dust and allowed to acclimate to the site environment for 72 hours before installation. See RPG’s warranty document for complete information.
- 8) Acoustical Panels are not manufactured to the furniture trade’s quality upholstery standards; instead, they are manufactured simply for economic and practical reasons typical to the acoustical panel industry trade. For example, no stitching or seaming is done, and the adhering of the fabric to the core is strictly via a light gluing process.
- 9) With hair-cutting scissors or similar, carefully trim any fabric threads frayed at the edges and corners before installation. Some panel fabrics fray more than others; this is a standard field operation to prepare for installation. Similarly, if any fabric has pulled away from an edge or corner during transit and handling, a light contact adhesive should be used to re-adhere the fabric to the core with care taken not to apply too much if the area will be visible.
- 10) During installation, keep in mind that many of the products generally have “soft” cores for acoustical purposes, and some panels also have perforated components behind the fabric. Overly gripping, clamping, pushing or pulling the panels can cause damage to the cores, the fabric (for example, causing dimpling) and the light glue bond between them.
- 11) Follow RPG’s mounting instructions. Tools and techniques common to the carpentry industry for the placement and setting of the hardware to properly align the panels will be required.

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