

# OSB USER GUIDE

## FINISHING

### General

OSB - Oriented Strand Board is a structural wood-based panel suitable for a wide range of finishes.



### Choice of Coating

As with any type of finish, consideration must be given to desired longevity, decorative effect and maintenance of coating. Since the coatings themselves influence these factors. It is recommended that end users take account of coatings manufacturers' specifications and guidance. In general, coatings designed for wood, may be used on OSB.

### Preparation

Where a smooth or glossy finish is required, factory sanded panels should be used.

Depending on the desired quality of the final finish, it may also be necessary to fill the sanded surface prior to final finishing. It is necessary, when using unsanded panels, to rough sand the surface to ensure the removal of any loose wafers and resin deposits, before applying any surface coating.

It is important to bear in mind, when considering finishes, that any imbalance caused by the application of a finish to one surface only may result in some adverse movement of the board. In common with most other wood based panels, OSB can expand or contract slightly when exposed to changes of the moisture in the atmosphere.

The moisture content of OSB, whether finished or unfinished, should ideally be close to the "in service" moisture content.

### Application

The coating manufacturer's guidelines on application should always be followed. It is recommended that end users conduct small scale coating assessment on a sample panel, prior to finishing a larger area.



### Finishing (general)

Where the final appearance is not of paramount importance, water based products may be used.

Water based coating systems/products may cause surface swelling and emphasise the outline of the wood strands, making them more noticeable.

Where the final appearance is more critical, Producers recommend the use of spirit based coatings.

### Priming

In line with the FINISHING paragraph above water-based primers may be used where required if the final appearance is of low priority. Producers stress the importance of priming with spirit based products where high quality finished appearance is required and the coating manufacturer recommends the use of a priming coat.

### Protected exterior finishes

For protected exterior uses, high-build microporous or "elastic" type exterior grade finishes are recommended. These are available either as translucent wood stains or as opaque finishes. Also recommended are exterior grade textured coatings. These two types offer the greatest level of protection. For shorter-term protection, lower-build microporous finishes and ordinary gloss paints may be used.

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### Interior Finishes

In general any desired product may be used on OSB, with the above provision regarding the effects of water-based coatings. For the best decorative effect, it is preferable to use the sanded panel. However the OSB manufacturers do not recommend the application of wallpaper or tiles to OSB.

### Roofing Paints

Special coatings are available for use on roofs, and several of these have been successfully tested on OSB. These finishes tend to contain flexible resin systems, such as latex or acrylic.

### Flooring Paints

The sanded surface of OSB panels looks particularly attractive when given a translucent or transparent finish, and several flooring grade varnishes are available. Paint manufacturers should be contacted for details about the wearing properties of

### Fire Retardant Paints

Most of the fire retardant paints available are water-based and the above comments regarding water-based finishes would apply. Such finishes have been used successfully on OSB, but noted that producers accept no responsibility for the manufacturer's performance claims. To date none of the retardant finishes tried are suitable for exterior use.

### Factory applied finishes

Some producers can supply finished panels with factory applied lacquer finishes for floors and walls and in a variety of colours.

### Overlay Finishes

Many producers and board convertors are now offering a variety of surface finishes for applications such as concrete shuttering, truck floors, hoardings, etc. Pre-primed paintable grades are also available. Overlay finishes range from bitumen-covered or glass-fibred panel for roofing, through to standard high pressure laminate overlays for worktops and decorative panelling, film-faced boards for concrete shuttering, to aluminium-faced panel for decorative anti-graffiti uses. Details are available from the Producers.

### Impregnation Treatments

A greater degree of protection, whether from fungal attack or for fire resistance, is gained by suitable impregnation treatment. As with any wood-based panel, OSB will swell to some extent during vacuum impregnation, and the degree of swelling will depend largely on the type of treatments and the care taken during the impregnation process. While certain treatments, can be recommended, the OSB manufacturer cannot be held responsible for the actual process which is in the hands of the operators of the treatment plant. It should be borne in mind that the degree of swelling may affect the strength properties of OSB.

Please contact the manufacturer if there is any doubt regarding performance of impregnated board.

