

Alpikord Range n.1 Technical Aspects

Directions for use

Alpikord panels can be handled, stocked and worked mainly as a traditional HPL panel with a melamine overlay. However, some specific features of wood surfaces require particular care.

Alpikord panels are always to be stacked horizontally, face to face, at a moderate ambient temperature (about 20°C) and a relative humidity of around 60%.

As for all wood surfaces, they must be protected from sunlight with a sheet of paper or non-transparent plastic, preferably dark, in order to assure stability.

The panels are always to be handled by two people.

No particular equipment or glues are required for the cutting and gluing operations. A good vinyl adhesive is recommended for a stronger adhesion, thus reducing the dimensional movements due to temperature and humidity variations.

To avoid bubbling when applying Alpikord with contact adhesive, such as Bostik, use special care to allow adequate drying time so that the solvents (or water, if the contact adhesive is water based) can evaporate. Always follow the adhesive manufacture's instructions.

Before application it is absolutely necessary to condition the Alpikord panel and its support in the same place for at least 24 hours.

For a correct counterbalancing we suggest that the same kind of panel be used, even if for less demanding applications (small surfaces) it is possible to use traditional HPL panels of the same thickness and quality.

Important Instructions

1) Colour consistency

As with traditional wood, even with the Alpikord surfaces it is not possible to guarantee an absolute consistency in colour between one batch and the other. Therefore, a possible slight colour difference between two sets of panels cannot be considered a defect.

2) Reaction to light

All woods, including Alpikord, react to direct and indirect light, both natural and artificial (such as incandescent and fluorescent lamps). Therefore, a change of the surface colour and appearance over time is a natural characteristic, not a defect. In particular, heat and humidity will interact with light to accelerate the aging process. Furthermore, when exposed to direct and strong light, pastel colored melamine finished patterns can undergo sudden and irregular changes in the original colour.

3) Cleaning and maintenance

The prefinished Alpikord surfaces are easy to clean using a damp cloth and non-abrasive cleaning products. In case of more resistant stains we recommend to use alcohol, ammonia or other light solvents. Never use acetone or trichloroethylene on the polyurethane surfaces.

4) Unfinished panels

Unfinished panels are never to be used as they are. They need to be overstained and then finished with the most suitable polyurethane, polyester or acrylic varnishes. Appropriate lightfastness tests (Xenotest) are the best guarantee of the good quality of the final product.

5) Melamine surface

The melamine finished panels, particularly suitable for application on horizontal surfaces (tables, etc.) for their higher resistance to abrasion, show a similar but not identical colour when compared to panels of the same article with polyurethane finish. A direct marching of panels with the same pattern but different finish is therefore to be avoided.

The above information and data is merely the result of our observations and experiences. No part of it may be construed as creating a binding obligation or other liability with regard to the way in which customers may process or use our wood. Our laboratory and technical service are always at customers' disposal