

Marlite® Brand FRP Panels
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRP (Fiberglass Reinforced Polyester) is a non-porous panel, reinforced with fiberglass. It is moisture impenetrable as well as stain and chemical resistant.

- Q. *Is FRP available without the textured surface? What is the benefit to the surface texture?***
- A. FRP can be made smooth without a surface texture. The purpose of the texture is to mask cosmetic imperfections such as fiberglass show-through and scratches from normal wear and tear, that might otherwise be objectionable. Smooth panels are both thinner (at comparable performance levels) and more expensive than textured panels.
- Q. *What temperature range can FRP withstand?***
- A. FRP will function satisfactorily as a sanitary liner panel between 150° F and -15° F (65° C TO -25° C)
- Q. *What temperature range is required when installing FRP?***
- A. Marlite recommends the room, adhesive, and FRP have a temperature of 70° F. The adhesive and FRP should be allowed to acclimate to the rooms temperature for 24 – 48 hours prior to installation. When checking the temperature of the adhesive place a temperature probe into the adhesive as close to the center of the can as possible.
- Q. *What chemicals can FRP withstand?***
- A. FRP is unaffected by most commercial chemicals. A table of common agents that have been specifically tested is available.
- Q. *Does FRP allow any moisture to pass through?***
- A. No. FRP is moisture impenetrable. It is important to prevent the trapping of moisture behind panels where it cannot escape, so the sub-wall and adhesive do not fail.
- Q. *Can panels be installed directly over studs?***
- A. No. FRP is intended to be applied as a facing to a substrate and derives much of its physical strength from the substrate.
- Q. *What maintenance is required?***
- A. Only washing with normal commercial cleaners and water for dirt and most stains. Some stains may require more aggressive solvents to remove them from the surface. In these cases, it is important to experiment in a small, inconspicuous area before proceeding over and entire panel. DO NOT use any abrasive cleaners or brushes which can scratch the surface and inhibit future cleaning in the future.

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Q. *Can FRP be installed on the ceiling?*

A. FRP panels can be applied to a solid ceiling but we recommend the use of drive rivets to mechanically hold the material in place in addition to the usual adhesive. (FRP is available as ceiling panels, for use with standard suspended ceiling grid systems.)

Q. *What types of wall substrates can FRP be applied?*

A. Walls need to be reasonably flat, true, and smooth before FRP is applied. Examples of appropriate surfaces would be sheetrock and plywood. FRP can also be applied directly to masonry surfaces which have been “floated” true to eliminate bumps and hollows. Masonry walls should be dry and not wicking or transferring moisture from any source. FRP can also be applied over ceramic tile and block. When this is done, it is important that: (a) the tile be firmly bonded to the wall, and (b) Marlite® Brand C-375 adhesive is used. DO NOT use Marlite® Brand C-551 latex-based adhesive over tile and other non-porous surfaces since the water solvent will not be able to evaporate through either FRP or ceramic, and thus, will not be able to cure properly. A trial should be performed to be sure you have acceptable adhesive bond. You may need to scuff up the tile for better grab or bond.

Q. *Can FRP be installed without division moldings?*

A. Yes. We actually recommend this with our Symmetrix™ FRP in applications where the product is not subject to significant temperature variation or aggressive cleaning procedures such as steam or high-pressure water. The division moldings serve several purposes. First, it permits the panels to expand and contract under temperature extremes. Second, it helps hold the edges to the wall and provides a channel for sealing the panels. If an application would not be prone to expansion/contraction or subjected to frequent heavy cleaning, the panels can be applied without division moldings if a 1/8” gap is left between panels and caulked with Marlite® Brand Silicone sealant.

Q. *Can high-pressure hot water remove the silicone?*

A. Water from a high-pressure hose can tend to loosen the silicone caulk and pull it free of the panels and molding channels when subjected to the direct force of the hose at the joint.

Q. *When do you need to use drive rivets?*

A. Adhesive alone is totally adequate for installing FRP under almost all circumstances. Drive rivets can be used where additional mechanical fastening is desirable to facilitate installation (such as direct to ceiling applications) or where there is concern about achieving a consistent bond to the substrate. The use of drive rivets alone is not recommended.

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- Q. ***Why do you recommend two types of adhesive and which is best?***
A. Both adhesives perform equally well after curing. Marlite® Brand C-375 is a solvent based adhesive. It is an excellent, multipurpose adhesive for use with wall panels, acoustic tile, insulation (except polystyrene foam), and non-porous surfaces. It is flammable during installation and appropriate precautions must be taken with respect to adequate ventilation and extinguishing any open flames. The volatile solvents cure more quickly under normal conditions and are more reliable under extreme conditions such as low temperature. Marlite® Brand C-551 is a latex-based adhesive which utilizes water as the solvent. It is excellent for use with wall materials such as drywall, plywood, and most porous surfaces. It is easier to clean up and does not give off noxious or flammable fumes. It tends to be longer curing and more sensitive to temperature extremes. It should not be used over sealed surfaces because the water will not be able to evaporate. After the adhesives have cured, they are non-toxic and non-flammable. The resulting bond typically exceeds the internal strength of the materials it joins (the sheetrock fails before the adhesive).
- Q. ***Can you still use Marlite Brand Adhesive's if they freeze?***
A. Marlite Brand Adhesives can be frozen and thawed out up to 5 times before the adhesive will no longer provide good adhesion properties.
- Q. ***What is the shelf life of Marlite Brand Adhesives?***
A. Marlite Brand Adhesives has a shelf life of 12 months in a tightly closed can.
- Q. ***What is the difference between Class "C" and Class "A" Fire-Rated FRP?***
A. The ASTM E-84 testing standards applied to the product measure the tendency for fire to spread and for the material to generate smoke in comparison to Red Oak lumber (scale of 100). It does not test the material with respect to containing a fire (i.e. a one-hour fire wall test) and FRP does not contribute or detract from the basic wall structure in this regard. The Class A product is made with different resins which lower the flame spread of the product. It is a more expensive resin, hence the difference in cost of the finished product. Most commercial installations in sprinkled buildings require Class C FRP. Check with local fire regulations to determine the required rating.