

## PRODUCT INFORMATION BULLETIN

### STORAGE & HANDLING OF FIBERGLASS REINFORCED PANELS

Following the simple tips and practices listed below can minimize many of the detrimental effects of the pre-installation environment and general handling wear or damage. Gel Coat and Tedlar surfaces are excellent weather resistant surfaces and with proper care will give years of service.

- Tip#1** Fiber-Tech suggests minimum forklift utilization and strongly recommends precautions be taken to protect the panel surface for direct fork contact. Several commercially available protective devices are available to cover the forks. Long length panels should never be lifted and allowed to significantly bow in the center. The use of several lifting points and spreader bars may be necessary.
- Tip#2** Panels should be stored in a dry, shaded, well ventilated area. Panels should be stored a minimum of 8" above the ground and under a breathable cover. This helps keep panels clean, dry and scratch free. Do not use sheet plastic or other non-porous materials, which can trap moisture between the cover and the surface.
- Tip#3** If water is found to be trapped between the panels it is strongly recommended that the panels be unstacked and allowed to dry. Trapping moisture between two non-breathable surfaces can cause the gel coat finish to become dull, hazy, discolor or possibly blister. Extra care should be given to colored gel coat finishes. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to protect the panel and the core from all exterior elements prior to installation in their chosen application.
- Tip#4** Clean work gloves should be used when handling individual panels to prevent smudging of prefinished surfaces and to prevent hand injury from sharp edges and splinters. Additional safety precautions should be taken in accordance with OSHA regulations. Dust masks or respirators should be worn when cutting FRP panels.
- Tip#5** To protect panel finish from scratches one panel should always be completely lifted off the next panel. The finished panel surface must never be slid across another panel. Panels should not be dropped on edges.
- Tip#6** Although Tedlar and Gel Coat is extremely stain resistant, any noticeable stain should be removed as soon as possible, as prolonged exposure in sunlight can modify some stains, making them more difficult to remove.
- Tip#7** Minor scratches and nicks can be easily repaired and painted over following simple procedures outlined in Fiber-Tech's repair manual. Visit our website at [Fiber-Tech.net](http://Fiber-Tech.net) or contact Fiber-Tech's Customer Service Department at 509-928-8880.

The suggestions and information presented herein, we believe to be reliable. They are offered in good faith but without guarantee since conditions and methods of handling Fiber-Tech products are beyond Fiber-Tech's control. It is recommended that the prospective user determine the suitability of our material, information and suggestions before adapting them on a commercial scale.

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