

mitech news



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Greetings to all for 2021 and the Year of the Ox!

In the November 2020 edition I expressed thoughts about the engineered wood panel industry. This time, thoughts about printed decors and wood panel coatings

Change Appearances with Laminated Panels

When looking around most building environments discerning observers will see engineered wood products everywhere, products which are not immediately apparent to a casual observer:

Cupboards, wardrobes and interior doors, shelves, bench tops, desks, and of course many floors and even many scotias and mouldings.



In years gone by, the wood enhancement process was with wood veneers for improving inferior appearance woods. And the only coatings were varnishes and crude paints. How times changed with synthetic resins. High Pressure Laminates, then Low Pressure Short Cycle Press processing, not forgetting the countless processes to apply printed films

and lacquer coats to engineered wood panels.

In a recent popular UK weekly architectural program the host discounted a melamine film overlaid door with a printed woodgrain design as *rubbish* compared to a genuine wood panel. But printed decors are in fact high quality, high resolution photographs of natural substances such as wood grains and polished stone and marble. Even concrete and metal surfaces are simulated. Is that a bad thing?

Just as a landscape or seascape photograph display helps to invoke feelings of peace, serenity or even excitement, so too can well-executed décor designs.

But keeping them up-to-date can prove a mammoth task with the ever-changing global décor trends. Laminated surfaces with printed decors prove to be an ally for those trying to develop their interiors.

Our workplaces and homes are places where many spend a large portion of time. It is important to design for the appropriate emotions: relaxation, enthusiasm, creativity, efficiency, peace and happiness. And for many, to express our characters.



DEG in additives

In a news edition June 2020 it was mentioned that several beneficial aspects were not immediately visible or apparent in machinery. The experienced technologist knows that this concept is certainly true of liquid additives. It could have been stated that several non-beneficial aspects were also not immediately visible or apparent!

We should all be aware of the difference between product cost and product value. It was summarised as **Non-Apparent Value (NAV)**

The list included:

- **Use of hazardous or dangerous chemicals**
- **Environmentally unacceptable chemical**
- **Effects on environment if heated**



We will focus on one of these items: [Diethyleneglycol](#) , or [DEG](#),

[DEG](#) is a liquid which is commonly used in commercial liquid preparations. It is an excellent solvent for many relatively insoluble substances. Nowadays DEG is considered to be quite a poisonous substance, which - due to its volatility - is suggested only for processes without heat. It used to be present in some MF-resins for paper-impregnation, but was removed (in Europe) because of environmental difficulties in handling the exhaust-system on the treaters. Several release agents as we know are intended for panel-production, where any matter is inevitably exposed to high temperatures and subsequent evaporation.



In the heating process much of the DEG solvent is evaporated in the same way as water would be evaporated as steam and water vapour

For paper impregnation the use if DEG is known to be the cause of blemishes particularly noticeable in dark colours

E & P Wuertz decided early-on to avoid the use of DEG and, with the exception of demineralised water, to only use non-volatile ingredients in hot application additives

Delayed shipments



It is now common knowledge that there are significant shipping delays as another consequence of the pandemic!

We take this opportunity to remind everyone that for Mitech services and all your overseas suppliers, please order in advanced with contingency allowances for vessel cancellation or departure delays

Engineered wood panels

- Conveyors
- Chippers
- Resin plants
- Chip washers
- Plywood presses
- Mat Spray Systems

Panel Lamination

- Paper impregnation lines
- Short Cycle Presses
- HPL Presses
- Veneer presses
- Press Pads
- Press Caul Plates
- Paper winders
- Paper Cutters
- Protective Foil application

Additives

- Release Agents
- Wetting Agents
- Hardeners
- Dyes and Pigments

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