

Plywood & Veneer:

USES & STORAGE

Uses:

MWANZI CO. supplied bamboo plywood and veneer are furniture grade products for use as cabinetry, furniture, interior paneling, counter tops, and any other interior application where wood products have traditionally been used.

Handling & Storage:

The following basic steps in handling and storage are recommended to help prevent checking and warping in wood panels per the Hardwood Plywood Veneer Association (HPVA). Store flat in original packaging, not upright or leaning against a wall. The end grain of bamboo is large and porous and absorbs moisture very quickly. Therefore, it may tend to warp unless you lay it flat during storage and keep the ends well protected. Particular attention should be paid to ensure that panels and veneer are utilized in an environment with a temperature and relative humidity level that will allow them to maintain their delivered moisture content level of approximately eight (8) percent. In processing, maintain relative humidity and temperature in a range compatible with the expected conditions in the service environment, using climate control systems if necessary. In the service environment, use climate control systems if necessary to maintain the relative humidity and moisture content of the products as defined above.

Temperature should be maintained within a range 60-90F. As another important precaution, do not put wood items too near or directly facing air vents, radiant heat sources or direct sunlight. Conditions in these areas may be at extremes causing nearby wood products to behave irregularly. For more information about relative humidity and its relationship to moisture content, please reference the Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI) web site at www.awinet.org and the Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association (HPVA) website at www.hpva.org.

Types of Recommended Finishes & Adhesives for Panels Only:

Many finishes and adhesives suitable to the cabinet and furniture manufacturing industry have been used successfully with bamboo. Independent testing was performed to ensure the adhesive between the bamboo slats on the panels is compatible with Methyl Alcohol and Methyl Ethyl Ketone-based products. Due to the construction of the bamboo panels, attention should be paid to any treatment that will result in the panels absorbing or releasing moisture unevenly. Apply a finish coating that will help retard or ensure even distribution of moisture movement in and out of the panel, reducing the impact of any drastic sudden humidity and/or temperature changes. Finishing all panel surfaces are essential to maintain the moisture balance which will minimize warpage or checking. When applying finishes, avoid over-saturation of the panel surface. Follow manufacturer's suggested temperature and thickness for application. As with any unfamiliar wood species, it is essential to test the adhesive or finish you wish to use on a large sample piece to ensure the overall compatibility between the treatment, the panel, and the installed environment.

When choosing a surface treatment, the finish you choose ultimately depends on how you plan to use the surface, the final look desired, and the preferred ease of future refinishing. Water, alcohol, acids (such as vinegar and lemon juice), and alkalis (such as baking soda), as well as heat and sunlight, are a few of the factors to be taken into consideration when choosing a finish. Please note that the adhesive used to manufacture the panels and veneer is not food grade. If the surface is to be used for food preparation, a food grade sealer is recommended.

MWANZI CO. Bamboo Plywood & Veneer

Uses & Storage Instructions

Applications:

MWANZI CO. supplied bamboo plywood and veneer can be cut and laminated using conventional equipment and adhesives. It sands and finishes like traditional hardwood sheet products. Pre-sanded to 150 grit, our plywood boards are extremely easy to work with; cutting and gluing like traditional hardwoods. Sharp carbide blades are recommended as bamboo plywood is harder than oak or maple.

Bamboo plywood and veneer take stains nicely. However, pigment stain may mask the unique “nodes” and grain found only in bamboo. We recommend either oil based finishes (AFM Safecoat Oil Wax or Bioshield Hard Oil) or polyurethane (AFM Polyureseal BP). Either of these will provide a beautiful hard finish that will seal the wood and provide years of protection. Oil based products require yearly maintenance; however they do provide a beautiful feel. Raw linseed oil has been used by millworkers with great results on the carbonized color. A water-based polyurethane or a non-yellowing clear coat allows our natural color bamboo to retain its blond shade.

Tips on Working with Bamboo Plywood:

Due to its hardness, you may find it useful to predrill before fastening. Also, should you decide to router the edges of the natural color plywood you may find some darkening. Bamboo plywood glues and sands very nicely. However, do not start with coarse grit abrasives. It will shred the fibers. Start with 80 -100 grit and proceed to much finer grits. If you want a super smooth finish, we have found the 300+ grit aluminum oxide type sandpaper to work well in between coats of the oil based products.

Bamboo plywood also works well with wood stains and will absorb colors evenly. If a color match putty is needed, bamboo will usually match one of the many colors available in wood putty fillers. Bamboo sawdust is also available for mixing with wood flower to create custom bamboo fillers.

Tips on Working with Bamboo Veneer:

Our bamboo veneer is manufactured with a wood cellulose backing for strength and stability in shipping and handling. Veneer receives a final finish sand at 160 grit. Bamboo veneer is a reconstituted, sheet sliced veneer. There are several laminating process which may use different adhesives and press temperatures, so it is important to confirm the compatibility with your specific system by testing the bamboo veneer before production. Recommended press temperatures are 100 - 120°C. If there is an incompatibility with your system and the cellulose backer, it's recommended that the veneer be laminated face to substrate and then sand off the cellulose backer.

Bamboo veneer can be sanded using conventional veneer sanding equipment and accepts most common finishes such as conversion varnish or polyurethane. Bamboo veneer also works well with wood stains and will absorb colors evenly. If a color match putty is needed, bamboo will usually match one of the many colors available in wood putty fillers. Bamboo sawdust is also available for mixing with wood flower to create custom bamboo fillers.

Due to varying application environments and situations, these guidelines do not guarantee results and should be used as a supplemental source of information only.