



B+N's Iconic™ Panels: Sustainability Fact Sheet

I. MANUFACTURING ICONIC PANELS: Core material for Iconic Panels

MDF is medium density fiberboard. Medium density refers to 45 to 48 lbs per cubic foot. Fiberboard is wood chips, and sawdust ground to a wood-like mat between two refining plates.

Pressure, heat, and resin are combined with this wood-like mat to make a board.

Resin comes in many forms. Wood has naturally occurring resin, and in the manufacturing process resin is also added to bind the fibers.

This is where urea formaldehyde comes in to play.

To be "green", some manufacturers have changed to new resin systems. Phenol formaldehyde resin, isocyanides, and others are being promoted as "green".

This is where we let the customer choose. We can make panels that are "green" based on non urea formaldehyde resin, or **NO-ADDED FORMALDEHYDE**.

NO-ADDED FORMALDEHYDE Panels are available upon request.

No-Formaldehyde MDF is green in other ways as well. The panel is manufactured from 100% post-industrial recycled wood residuals, and meets the most stringent formaldehyde emission standards in the world. The formaldehyde-free adhesive system of the MDF is the ideal sustainable design fiberboard (SDF) for commercial interior applications.

The following information is particular to No-Formaldehyde panels:

- 1. Potential of 5 LEED© Credits Supported**
Materials and Resources: 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2
Indoor Environmental Quality: 4.4
- 2. SCS Certified**
Post-Industrial Recycled Wood Fiber
No-Added Formaldehyde
- 3. CHPS Compliant**
Meet Materials and Specifications for VOC emissions section 01350
- 4. EPP Certified**
Composite Panel Association
Environmentally Preferable Product
- 5. FSC Certified (Mixed Credit)**
Cert. no. SCS-COC-001409 © 1996 FSC

For more information on this No-Formaldehyde MDF, please visit:

<http://www.sierrapine.com/index.php?pid=66>

B+N Industries, Inc.

Main offices:

1409 Chapin Avenue | Burlingame, California 94010 | (800) 350-4127

New York Showroom and offices:

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Another positive factor: by laminating both sides of the Iconic panels we are containing to some extent off gassing of any resin system.

II. LAMINATE (covering MDF Panel) : Vinyl Covering for Iconic Panels

Laminate can be PVC or PET upon request. Both products can be recycled. Considering most municipal water supplies are pumped through PVC piping (or CPVC for hot water Chlorinated PVC), we consider PVC a very safe product.

Producing the PVC raw materials used to be considered dangerous (cancer causing) when they processed Monomer back in the 70's. However, later improvements virtually eliminated the cancer risk. PVC also is given to be a risk as it produces dioxins when burned. However, PVC production is up while dioxins sourced from PVC are down as a percent of the total. (Please note that the largest sources of dioxins by far are generated from forest fires!)

This is not to say that PET (polyester) is bad. It is very recyclable as is PVC. It does however - take more energy (oil/gas) to produce polyester than PVC.

We encourage you to visit the Vinyl Institute to be armed with the facts about vinyl: www.vinylinfo.org. There are some organizations that want to eliminate all plastics. We see this on our packaging side. They are promoting papers instead. Again, when evaluating paper products one must look at total energy use to create the final product.

However, architects that are being influenced by William McDonough and his organization are leading a movement to eliminate materials such as PVC, which they view as harmful.

Some organizations, such as Steelcase and Herman Miller have led the way by declaring themselves PVC-free. We offer our PET products, which are free of PVC. We strongly disagree with the conclusions McDonough has arrived at, and believe they are ignoring some of the facts about vinyl. That's why we suggest you familiarize yourself with the Vinyl Institute and arm yourself with the facts they have included. They are putting on some seminars on the subject and advise trying to attend one.

III. FACTORY LOCATION:

Our Iconics factory in Oregon is located less than five miles from our MDF resource.

IV. FACTORY PRACTICES: Recycling is Economical

1. Recycles MDF dust and scrap to a Biomass plant that provides power to utility companies.
2. Laminate trims are baled and sold to recycling dealers.
3. Business Processes-Variable Frequency Drives are utilized on our air compressor, vacuum pumps and dust collection system. These systems eliminate waste and reduce peak demand caused by the starting and stopping of electrical equipment.
4. Dust collection is filtered to below 5 microns and during cold seasons the filtered air is returned to the plant to reduce heating costs. All of these projects received Oregon Energy tax credits and power company incentives.

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V. B&N CALIFORNIA FACTORY:

1. Glue: California OSHA requires water base adhesive, they are VOC free
2. Recycling laws. We recycle dust back to the MDF manufacturer - they compress the dust to make other materials.
3. Crates: we found a great use for these puzzle crates: odd sized pieces of MDF that an MDF manufacturer cannot use.

VI. SHIPPING:

1. If clients order is enough volume, we can fill a railcar instead of truck.
2. Most of our China orders come by boat instead of air.

VII. STAFF: Two of our staff members are currently LEED-Accredited

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