

Kerfkore Lightweight Panels

Edge banding – it's the perfect finishing touch when you're working with Kerfkore architectural panels. While fabricators can edge band our flexible panels using standard methods and adhesives, our lightweight panels have a few special requirements. Learn more about edge banding and how you can achieve great results using our lightweight products.

WHAT IS EDGE BANDING?


Edge banding, a common finishing technique for furniture and cabinetry, covers up the rough edges on manufactured wood or plywood panels. In addition to its aesthetic advantages, edge banding protects panels from moisture damage and improves durability by providing impact resistance.

You can apply thin, narrow strips of edge banding material – made from wood, wood veneers, PVC, ABS, acrylic, melamine and more – to straight and curved edges. Standard widths and lengths vary by material, and thicknesses generally run from 1 to 3 mm (1/25" to 1/8").

Fabricators typically prefer commercially available wood veneers over solid-wood edging because they're easier to use and install. They don't require clamping and don't result in problems with glue seepage.

Need help with your edge banding project?

Contact 1-800-637-3539 for questions and technical assistance. For additional fabrication tips, check out our resource center at kerfkore.com/resources.

A close-up photograph of a woodworking process, showing a piece of wood being cut or sanded, with a large amount of wood dust or chips flying through the air. A red tool or part of a machine is visible in the background.

Skip ahead to learn how to edge band Kerfkore lightweight panels.

HOW IS EDGE BANDING APPLIED?

There are several ways to apply edge banding. The method depends on the type of banding material you choose:



EDGE BANDER

This machine bonds banding material to panel edges with hot-melt adhesive. During this automated process, the machine holds the panel and banding material in place while it applies adhesive to bond the two pieces. It then trims and buffs the finished edges.



IRON-ON EDGE BANDING

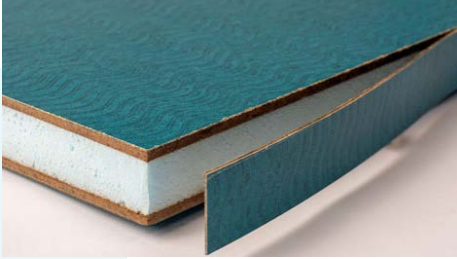
If you're using a banding material that features a built-in hot-melt-adhesive backing, you can apply the product using a household clothing iron. For best results, work a small section at a time, moving the iron steadily so you don't burn or melt the edging material. While the material is still hot, use a hard roller to firmly press it in place. If you apply banding material to a curved edge, use a heat gun instead of an iron. Once the banding is firmly in place, trim and sand the edges.



ZERO-JOINT EDGE BANDING

To use this method, your banding material must feature a pre-applied polymer layer that adheres to the panel edge without glue. For this application, a laser, hot air or near infrared radiation (NIR) edge banded melts the polymer layer, joining the banding material to the board. The board and edge banding appear as one solid surface, and the process prevents delamination due to heat or moisture.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR KERFKORE LIGHTWEIGHT PANELS



WORKLITE GPS, XPS AND EPS FOAMKORE

If your Foamkore panels come with built-in wood framing, you can edge band them as is, using any of the standard application methods. If your Foamkore panels do NOT come with built-in wood framing, you have a few options.

- Use a router to remove the foam edges and attach a wooden edge with glue. You can then edge band them using a standard application method.
- Run the panels through an edge bander without removing the foam edges. In this case, make sure you use a banding material with at least a 2mm to 3mm thickness to ensure optimal structural integrity and to keep the foam from melting.
- Apply the banding material by hand, using a water-based adhesive to keep the foam from melting.



WORKLITE PHC HEXKORE

If you're using our Hexkore panels, you can edge band them using a standard application method regardless of whether they come with built-in wood framing or no framing. If you apply the edge banding by hand, you can use any suitable glue – it doesn't have to be a water-based adhesive.

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